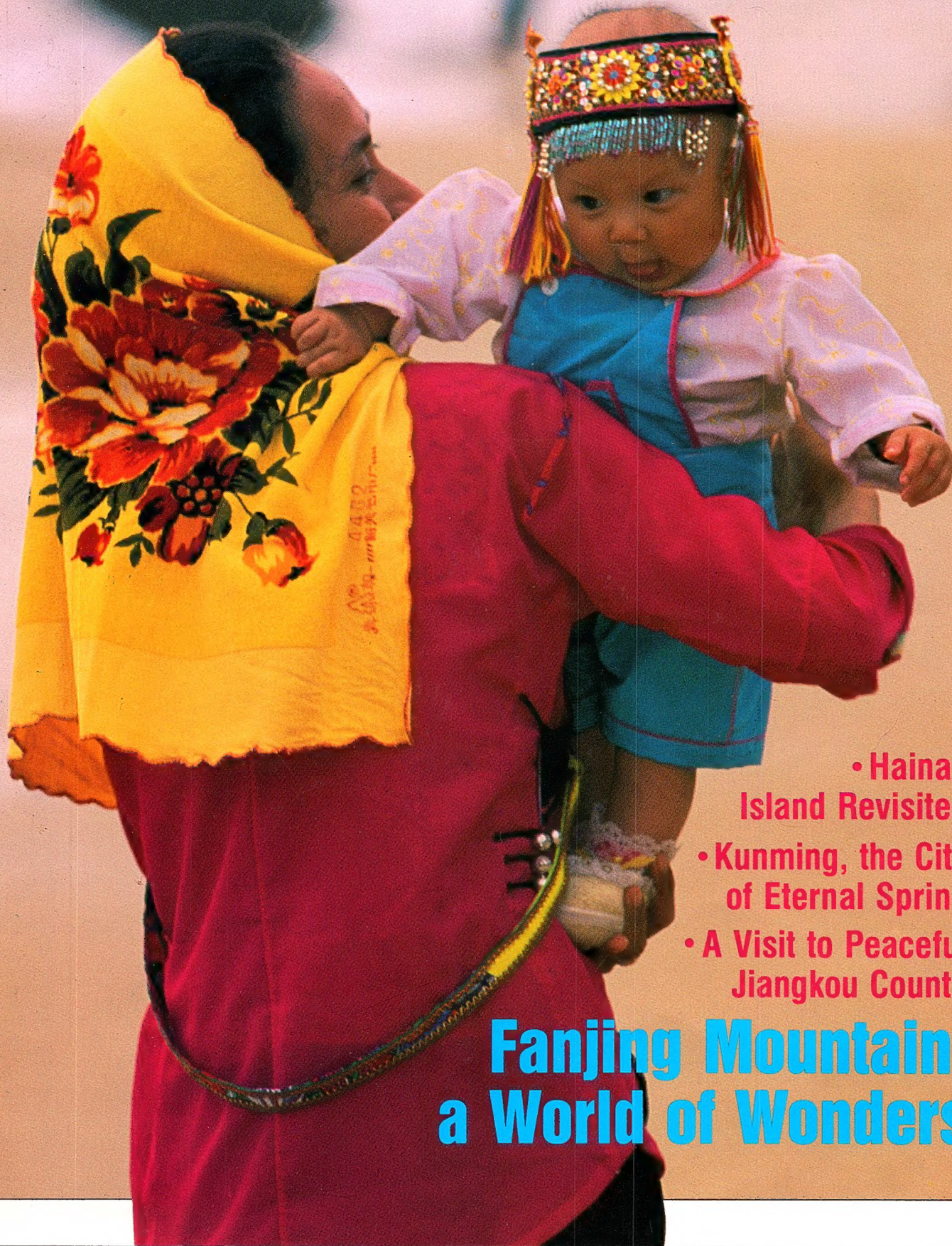


China

T O U R I S M

MARCH 1993

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- Hainan Island Revisited
- Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring
- A Visit to Peaceful Jiangkou County

**Fanjing Mountain,
a World of Wonders**

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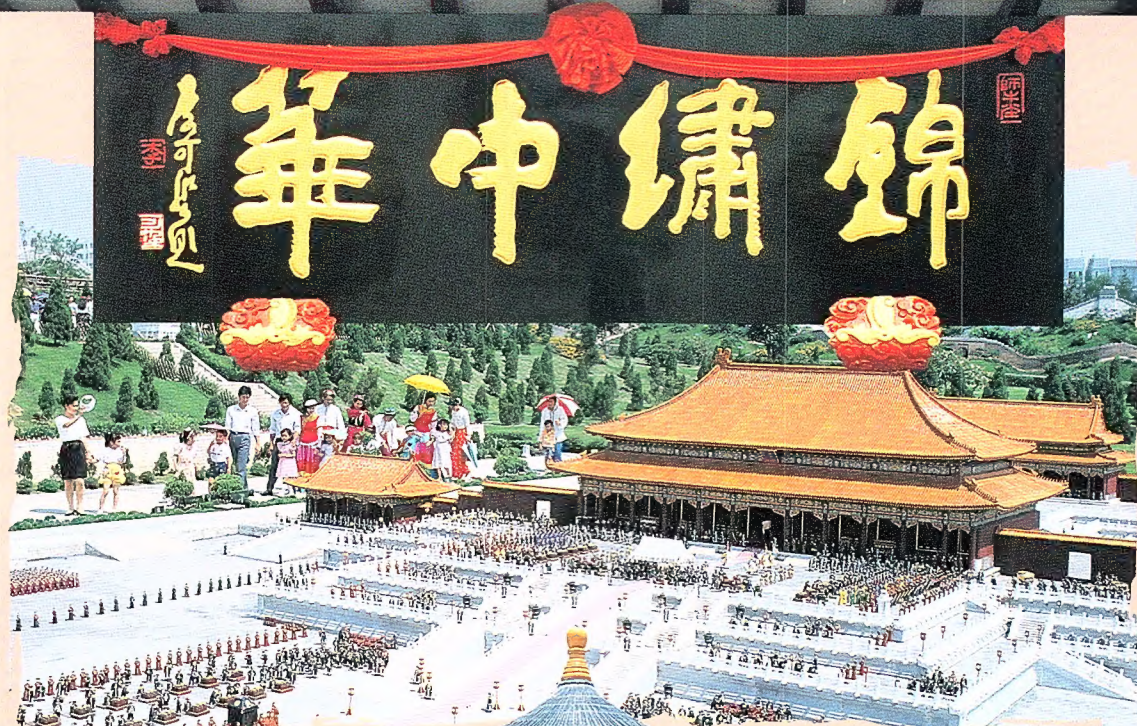


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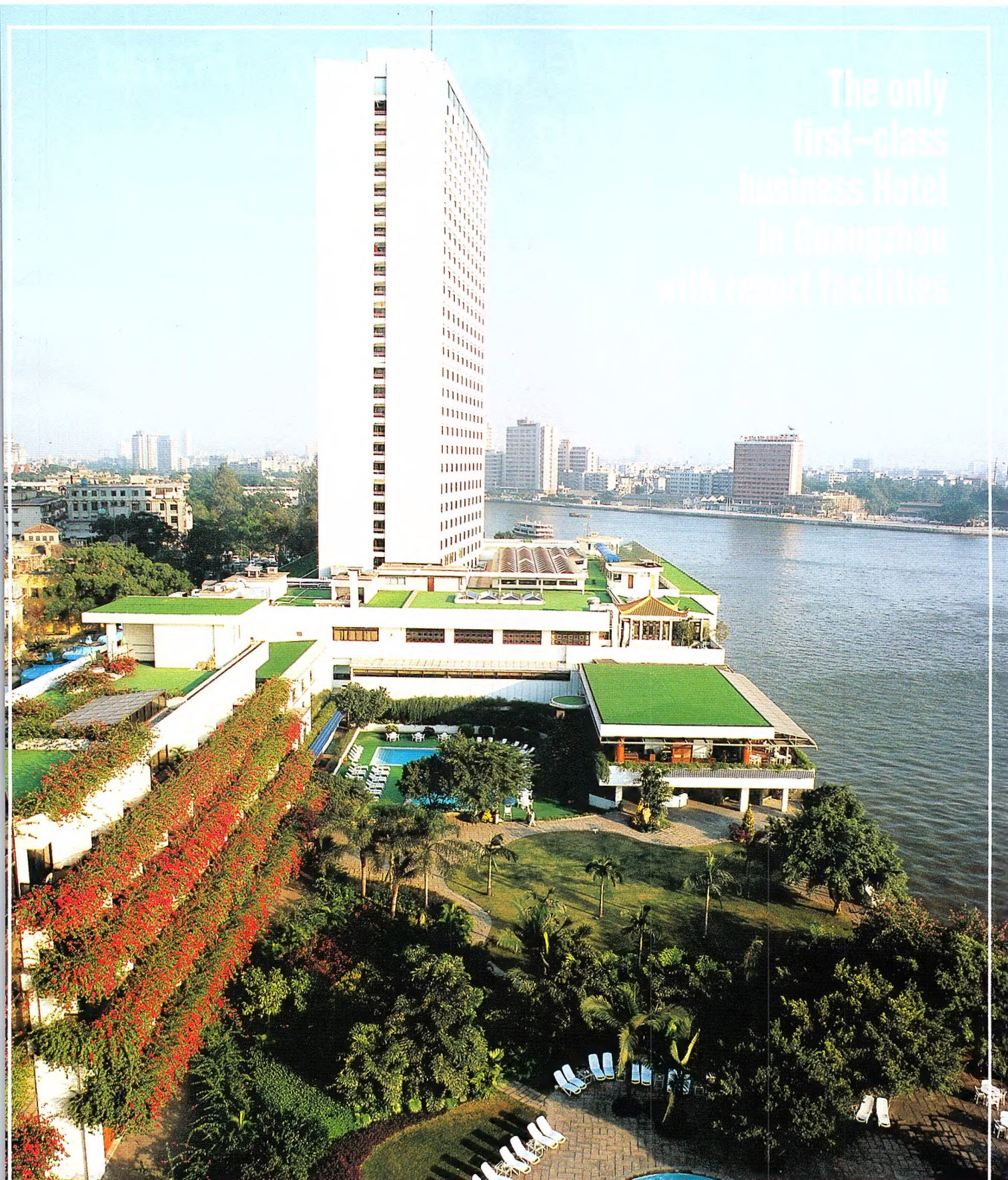
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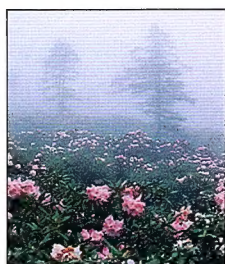


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EDITORIAL



South China in the Springtime

Winter is coming to an end and signs of spring are everywhere. With spring, thoughts often turn to travel; the only question is how to choose one's destination, especially in as vast a country as China. Of course, at this time of year weather and climate are an important consideration, and the north and south of China vary greatly in this regard. In March and April the north remains quite chilly, but southern China is already welcoming in the spring season. Therefore, in this issue our focus is on the southern regions and their many places of scenic beauty.

Our first stop is to Hainan Island, south of Hong Kong and therefore the warmest and most tropical of vacation spots. Hainan is pleasant all year round, and with its sandy beaches and abundant palm trees, offers a good variety of tourist facilities and recreation. In fact, the Chinese authorities are hoping that Hainan will one day become the "Hawaii of China".

Next we travel to Kunming, the capital of beautiful Yunnan Province – often called the "City of Eternal Spring" for its year-round temperate climate. Spring is an excellent time to visit, as flowers of all kinds are in full bloom, making travel here both colourful and enjoyable.

Any visitor planning to go to Guizhou Province should consider a trip to Fanjing Mountain, which stands at a height of 2,494 metres. For intrepid travellers not afraid of a little hard work, a walk to the top of one of the many surrounding peaks is sure to be an unforgettable experience. Mist and clouds drift past mountaintops, and huge rocks in strange formations seem to come out of nowhere. It is like standing in the middle of a fantastic Chinese painting.

Not far from Fanjing Mountain is the county seat of Jiangkou, where poplar and willow trees sway in the breeze, and the bright yellow flowers of the rape plant blanket the fields. As a contrast to the soaring heights of Fanjing Mountain, touring around Jiangkou gives one a sense of the majesty and enormous variety of this little-explored province.

We hope that this issue offers our readers plenty of ideas for their spring holidays. Whatever you are looking for, the south has it all — the only limit is your imagination!

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Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

In the past six years Hainan Province has come of age, improving facilities and attracting more and more visitors. The interesting culture of the island's minorities is just one of the reasons for Hainan's popularity. In this article, we offer our readers a suggested round-the-island itinerary, along with detailed information on all the major tourist sites.

Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring

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Photos by Peng Zheng

Article by Xian Yanyun & Shi Baoxiu

With a pleasant climate year-round, Kunming is an ideal tourist destination in any season, but the spring is especially lovely, as flowers are in full bloom all across the city.

The black-headed gulls that now inhabit Cuihu Lake have only begun migrating here in recent years, arriving every winter from the colder climate of the northern regions.



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Front Cover: Mother and son of the Hui nationality in Hainan (by Chan Yat Nin)

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Fanjing Mountain, a World of Wonders 44

Photos by Chan Yat Nin/Article by Hua Nian

Situated in Guizhou Province, Fanjing Mountain has seen remarkably few changes since ancient times. The fantastic mountain peaks and rolling mist will make you think you are in the middle of a Chinese painting.

A Visit to Peaceful Jiangkou County 58

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

Near the foot of Fanjing Mountain, Jiangkou County offers a completely different, yet equally beautiful kind of scenery — the lush countryside of Guizhou Province.



CITIES IN DEVELOPMENT



From "Little Guangzhou" to "Little Shenzhen" — A Visit to Wuzhou and Cenxi in Guangxi 72

Photos & Article by Hua Nian

Easily accessible by boat from Hong Kong, Wuzhou has the longest history of any city in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Nearby Cenxi, known for its local handicrafts, is rapidly developing as a place rich in business opportunities.

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HAINAN ISLAND REVISITED

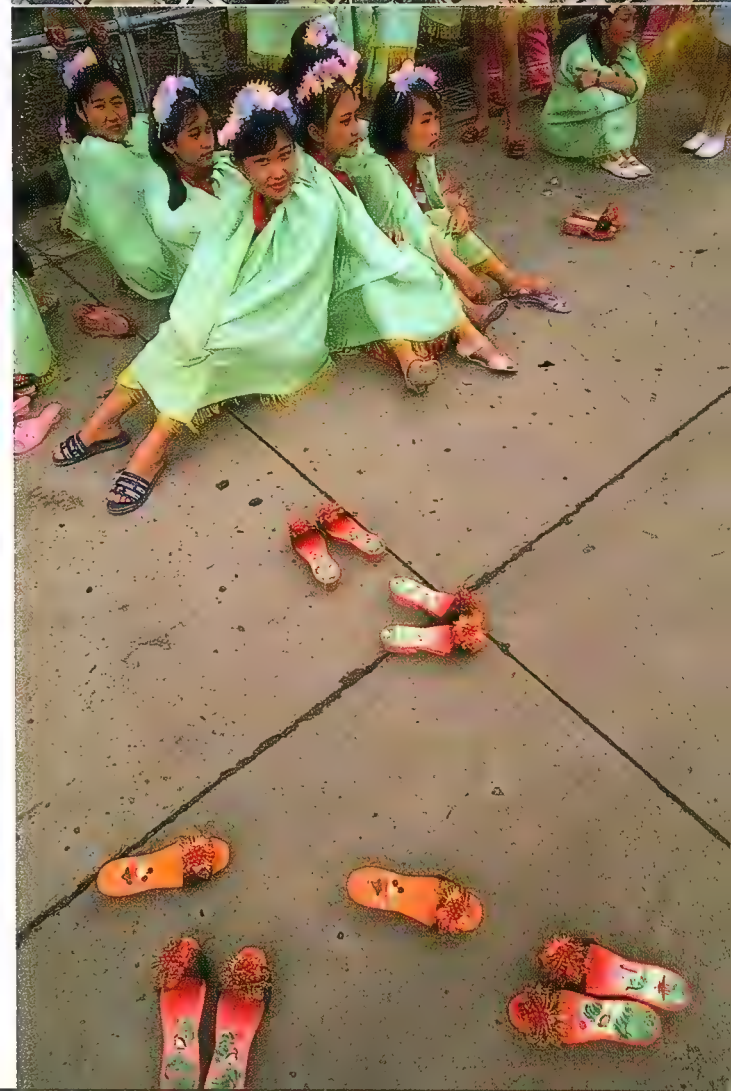
PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

Hainan Island, China's second largest island with an area of 34,000 square kilometres, second only to Taiwan, has a population of 6,657,000. Sparsely populated, Hainan was originally a prefecture under the jurisdiction of Guangdong Province. It was upgraded to a province in 1988, and accordingly, its prefectural capital, Haikou, became the capital city of the province. In the same year, Hainan Island was designated as the largest special economic zone, and since then Haikou has moved well along towards development into a metropolis.

Haikou in a Drastic Change

Six years ago, when I first visited Hainan, Haikou was more like a county town than a city. The houses were scattered among paddy fields and the airport was surrounded by farmland. But this time, as I stepped off the plane, I found that the airport was encircled by tall buildings. Nanhang Road, close to the airport, was flanked by newly constructed blocks of buildings, among which many were luxury hotels, a sharp contrast to what I saw six years ago. Then, there were only two decent hotels in Haikou. The motor tricycles on which I had rode into the city six years ago were replaced by imported taxis now running to and fro along the streets. The traffic on the streets was so heavy that I could scarcely believe that I once strolled leisurely down the middle of the roads.

Clockwise from top left:
One of the highlights of the annual Coconut Festival held in April is the coconut dance performed by these comely young ladies ; a bird's-eye view of Haikou City (by Lin Gang) ; the Flower Clog Dance is another important program during the Coconut Festival; karaoke lounges, bars and dance halls are abundant in Haikou City.



► *The Donghu International Club welcomes guests of all nationalities.*

▼ *A cluster of motorcycles are parked in front of the recreational centres and nightclubs throughout Haikou.*



Coconut Festival, a Show of Folk Customs

When I arrived in Hainan, it just so happened that the first Coconut Festival was in full swing. Haikou, the centre of the festival, was colourfully decorated with coconut trees and their symbolic representations. Known as the "City of Coconuts", it certainly lived up to its nickname.

When the festival started on April 3, the people of Haikou city turned out to give a grand parade with colourful floats. They marched in the streets in different groups ac-

cording to their respective professions. On the floats, the themes reveal a strong local flavour, with people in costume acting out many scenes depicting characteristic images and legends of the different nationalities residing in Hainan. The floats were surrounded by groups of dancers wearing different ethnic clothes.

Many minority nationalities such as Lis, Miaos, Huis, Manchus, Zhuangs, Tibetans and Mongolians presently live in Hainan. Among them the Li, with a population of around 1,000,000, is the principal indigenous

nationality in Hainan, and is one of the biggest nationalities among all the ethnic groups in China. The Miao and Hui in Hainan are different from those living in the mainland. Although they belong to the same ethnic group, they differ from their cousins elsewhere, with dress and customs of their own. Even the Hans living in Hainan possess special features wrought by their existence on the island.

In the procession a group of Han girls performed the beautiful Flower Clog Dance, Plate Dance and Coconut Dance. Seeing the Flower Clog Dance reminded me of my grandmother's time when children wore traditional Chinese garments and wooden slippers which produced a clapping sound when walking. The performers of the Plate Dance held a pair of wine cups or porcelain spoons in each hand. They clapped the cups and spoons as they danced, producing a percussion rhythm. While the girls performing the Coconut Dance held up coconuts with both hands, their lithe posture and graceful movements called to mind the shadows of coconut trees waving in sea breezes.

Haikou Lively After Dark

The heat of activity generated by the Coconut Festival pushed the Haikou nightlife to new heights, and the action did not subside even after the festival concluded. In recent years Haikou has become well known for its evening entertainment as the nightlife there is now quite lively. Apart from public

Haikou's "Food Street" enjoys its peak business between dusk and 9 p.m.



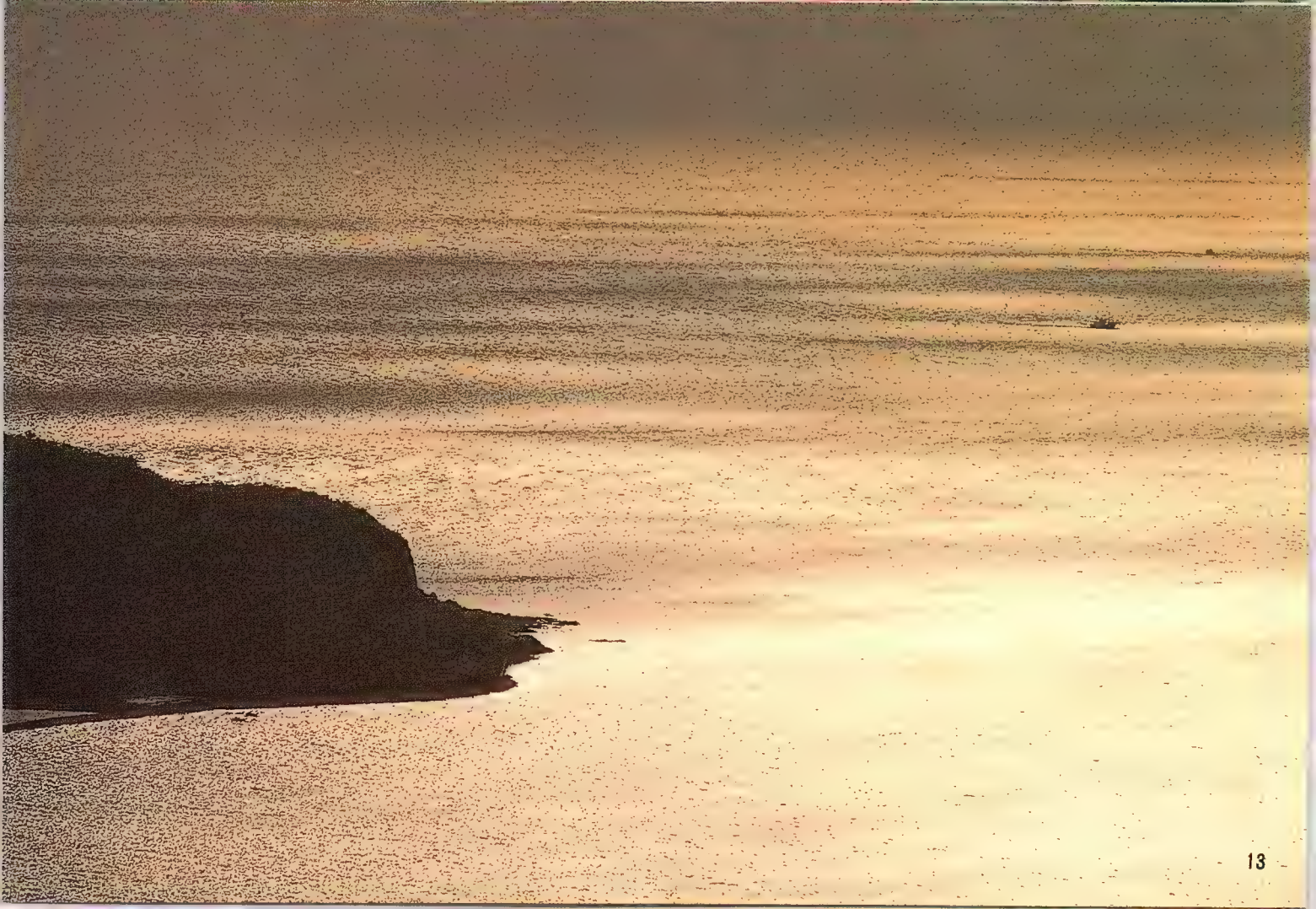
Affectionate displays of young lovers are often seen in Hainan Island.



Dancers dance the night away in the Donghu International Club.

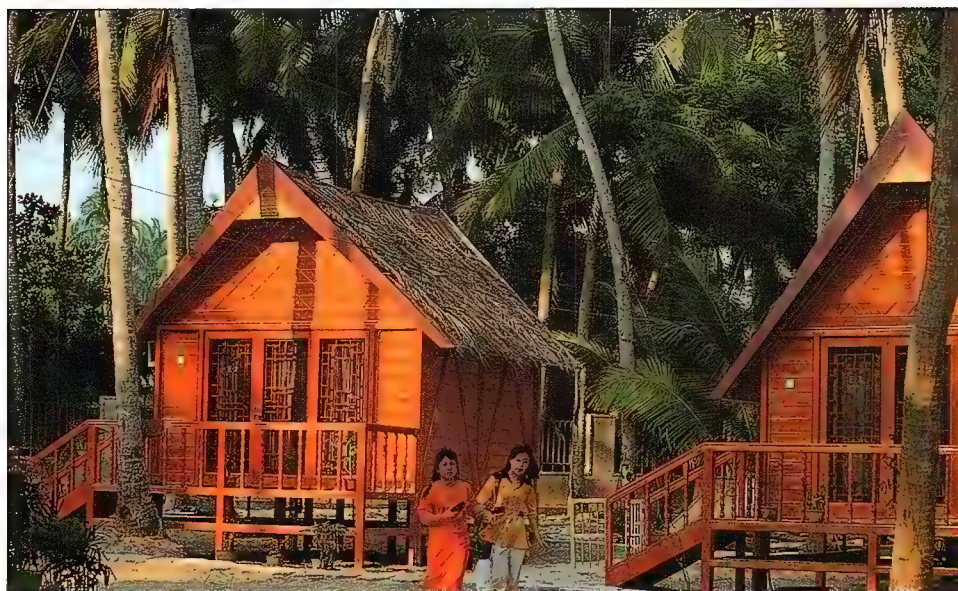
Clockwise from top left:
The beaches at the foot of Tongguling Ridge are pristine; it is truly enjoyable to refresh oneself relaxing in a hammock; the expansive beach at Sanya (by Aoyagi Kenji); the sea at Dadonghai Beach inside the Jinling Holiday Resort (by Zhu Xingguang)





► Dongjiao in Wenchang is also known as the "Volleyball Town".

▼ The wooden cottages in the village resort at Dongjiao provide tourists with comfortable boarding.



places of entertainment and dance halls, there are many hotels and guesthouses which have recreation rooms and bars open till well into the night. The business is very prosperous.

The last time I was in Haikou, my only option was to while away my time in coffee shops in the evenings. But this time I saw people wearing fashionable clothes sauntering to and fro under neon lights in busy street centres. Department stores, clothes shops, barbershops, beauty parlours, video game centres and other public places of entertain-

ment were all crowded with people. It seemed that time had leapt forward by several decades during the interval between my trips.

I visited the Donghu International Club, a place somewhat like a nightclub. As I entered the gate, a young lady quickly walked up and ushered me to a seat. The club was spacious, with a capacity of several hundred people and was furnished with various tables, chairs and boxes and modern facilities. By the time I arrived, it was already packed with guests, both Chinese and foreign. Some were there to pass the time, some to seek pleasure,

some to make friends, some to court lovers and others to discuss business. Each did what he deemed appropriate under the soft lighting. Inside the hall, the fittings, utensils and lamps were all tastefully arranged. On the catwalk stretching from the stage, famous models from other parts of the country were giving a fashion show, and afterwards, there were performances of songs by singing stars both from Hainan and other provinces. According to the club's advance notice more star singers would come from other parts of the country.

Wenchang, Home of Coconuts

If Haikou is the city of coconuts in China, then Dongjiao in Wenchang is the heartland of coconuts. I was deeply impressed by the coconut groves, endless beaches and sea-scapes in Wenchang.

It was two hours' drive from Haikou to Wenchang. At Wenchang I changed to a mini-bus and headed for Qinglan Port. When I arrived at the port, I saw Dongjiao standing on the other side across a beautiful stretch of blue sea.

At the port were moored many new motorboats waiting for tourists. When enough people gathered together, or when hired by some tourists, a boat would dash across the sea to the eastern shore. I hired one there. But instead of heading for Dongjiao I went to the beach at Qinglan Bay on the western shore. It was an extremely large beach far away from the coconut grove where tourists

The Hui woman from Yanglan Village wearing the distinctive costume of their ethnic group comes to do business at Dadonghai and Tianya Haijiao.



Riding jet-scooters is how some people enjoy the tranquil sea at Dongjiao.



requent. From the beach I went to a sand-bar, which only emerged from the water at low tide. After making sure about the time of high tide, I sent the motorboat away and asked the boatman to come to fetch me half an hour later. With the blue sea around me and the azure sky over my head, I stayed here experiencing the joys of pure solitude.

The Romantic Holiday Resort in the Coconut Forest

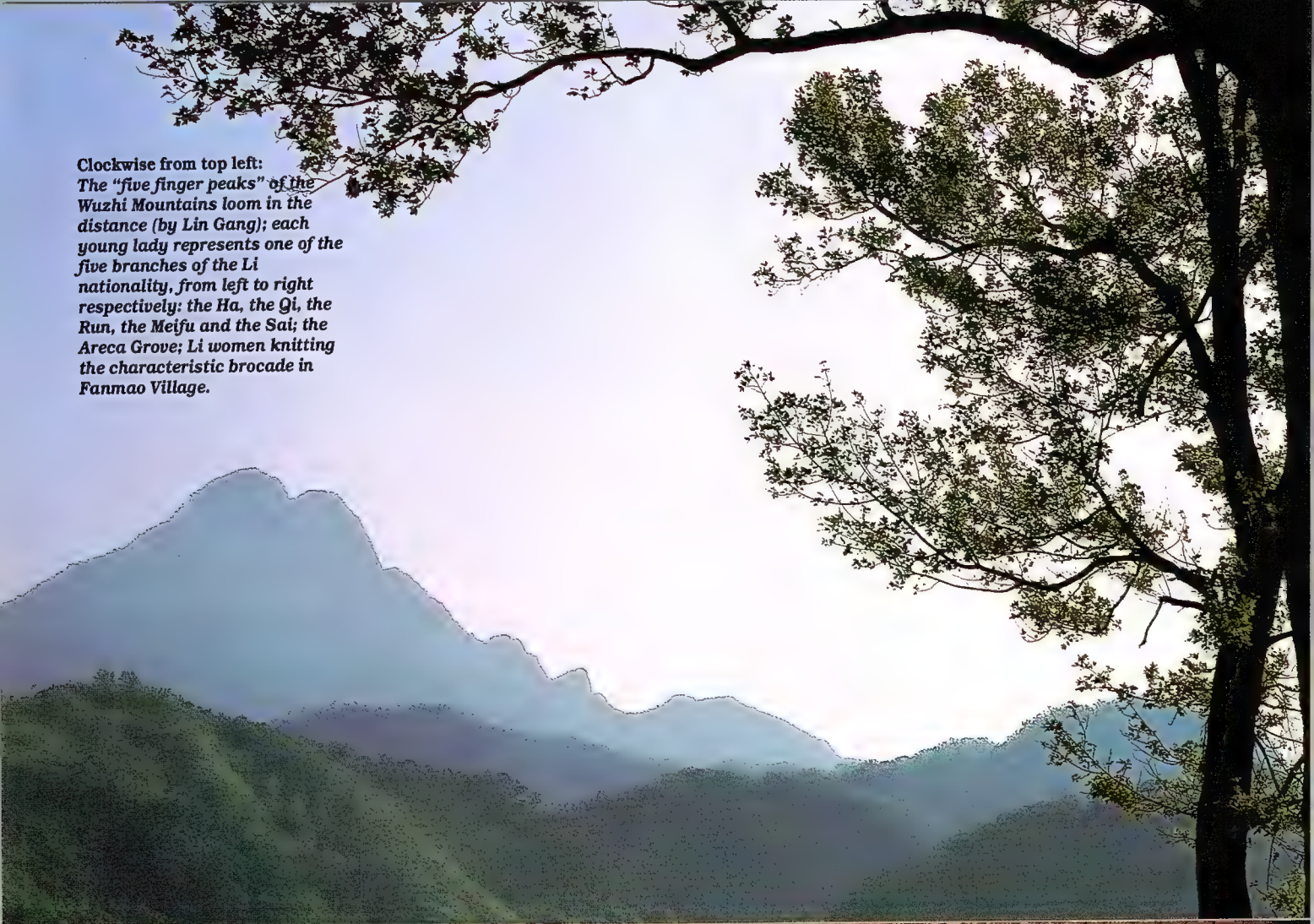
It was nearly dark by the time the motorboat sent me to the Jianhua Mountain.

Covered by dense coconut groves, Jianhua Mountain towers high along the sea. It is the place with the largest number of coconut trees on the entire Hainan Island. The coconut groves have maintained their original charms, but some changes have also taken place there; the area is not as primitive as before. Just at the edges of these groves, many seafood restaurants have opened and a restaurant now even lies beside the lighthouse where a no-trespassing notice was formerly posted. However, these changes have provided greater convenience to travellers. In the restaurant by the lighthouse, I had a feast of fresh seafood, and the restaurant's manager even allowed me to climb up the lighthouse to enjoy the sunset. More interestingly, a hotel and a holiday resort were also built in the coconut groves.



Innumerable fishing boats moor at the port of Sanya (by Aoyagi Kenji).

Clockwise from top left:
The "five finger peaks" of the
Wuzhi Mountains loom in the
distance (by Lin Gang); each
young lady represents one of the
five branches of the Li
nationality, from left to right
respectively: the Ha, the Qi, the
Run, the Meifu and the Sai; the
Areca Grove; Li women knitting
the characteristic brocade in
Fanmao Village.





► A tourist dances with a Li girl during the Bamboo Dance in Fanmao Village.

▼ From a glance at this road lamp, one can glean much about the life of the natives in the environs of the Tongshi Travel Villa.



All the houses in the resort were constructed in a unique design and made of wood. The guestrooms were provided with air-conditioners and bathrooms, yet the best suite cost merely one hundred yuan a night. Living there gave one a romantic feeling.

Early the next morning I ventured deep into the coconut forest to visit the natives. The people there were very honest and frugal. When I arrived they were eating breakfast and quickly offered me a bowl of steaming sweet potatoes. When I told them I was interested

to see how they carved art out of coconuts, a villager immediately took me to his house. On the way I noticed some local villagers resting in hammocks suspended on trees, very carefree and content.

By the time I returned to the resort, the place was bustling with noise and excitement. The tourists who had enjoyed a quiet night in the resort and those who had just arrived in the morning had all come out to play gaily on the beach. I immediately joined them, playing with sand carts, riding a jet-scooter, and

swimming. After I played to my heart's content, I bid farewell to the Jianhua Mountain and left Wenchang for Sanya.

Sun-drenched Beaches at Sanya

Sanya at the southern tip of the island is noted for its bathing beaches and fantastic rocks. Among the many beaches at Sanya, the Dadonghai Beach was the earliest developed. Six years ago very few people came to swim in the sea, but today the situation has changed. As the beach is seven to eight kilometres long, however, it is not crowded even if ten thousand people are there at the same time. The newly established Jinling Tourist Holiday Resort at the western end of the beach is still rather quiet.

Sanya's best beach is the one at Yalong Bay. This particular beach is twenty kilometres long, flat, and has fine sand. Though the waves here are high, the water is just chest deep even if you go into it leaving the shore several dozen metres behind. A few years ago Yalong Bay was a naval port off limits to outsiders. It was impossible for civilians to even have a glance at it at that time.

At the seaside in the southwestern outskirts of Sanya there is a mountain called Luhuitou (The Deer Turning Its Head), the name of which is derived from a beautiful legend. In ancient times a young hunter from the Li nationality was in hot pursuit of a beautiful sika deer. When he came to the precipice of the mountain, the deer suddenly

Li women still use bamboo tubes for carrying water on their back.



turned into a graceful Li girl. Now, a new sculpture depicting the young hunter and the deer is placed on top of the cliff. From the summit of the mountain one can get a panoramic view of Sanya.

Then I went to visit the place curiously dubbed Tianya Haijiao (The Ends of the Earth), a tourist site most typical of Sanya. The place is famous for its grotesque rocks and ancient rock inscriptions. Seeing the billowing waves of the endlessly stretching sea surrounding the shore and the huge rocks appearing to reach the sky, I seemed to have come to the ends of the earth when I visited here on my journey six years ago. Now, the rocks and rock inscriptions were still there, but the beach was crowded with people. Traders who wanted to do business with tourists set up stands everywhere at the beach. Some people even set out models of green turtles and charged money from tourists who wanted to pose for a photo with one.

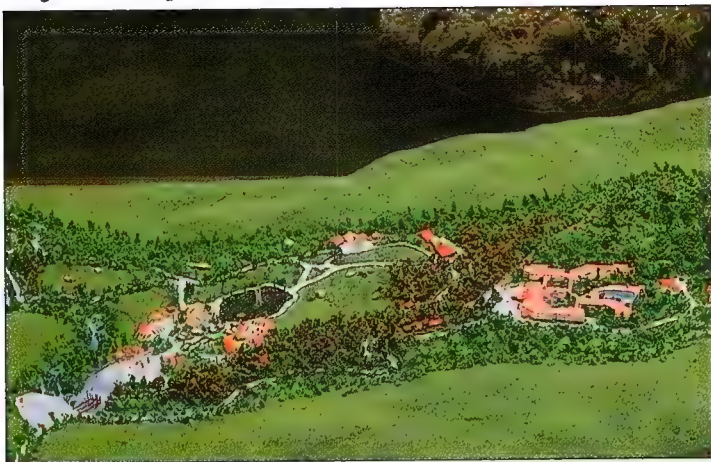
Seeking the Customs of the Li and Miao Nationalities

Soon after I left Sanya heading due north for Tongshi in the interior among the Wuzhi (Five Fingers) Mountains, I seemed to have entered another world. The road winding among the mountains was flanked by a forest of trees. Tall palms, upright arecas and luxuriant rubber trees flashed past the window of my car. The air was pure and fresh.



Rare Li brocade and this old ox skull are exhibited in the Li and Miao folk custom village.

A stockaded village under the Wuzhi Mountains is actually a resort area presently under construction which will include a hotel, a folk custom village and a campsite area for climbing mountains.



The delicious Bamboo Tube Rice of the Li nationality is also pleasant to look at.

Tongshi was formerly the capital city of the Li and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. After Hainan became a province, the autonomous prefecture was eliminated. But the town, where the Li and Miao peoples live in compact communities, remains the focal point for those who wish to appreciate the customs of the ethnic groups and bring home souvenirs. Women are seen wearing Li and Miao clothes everywhere in the city.

The Li people were the aboriginal inhabitants of the island. Their culture evolved for more than two thousand years. Even in the early 1950s, the Li people in the Wuzhi Mountains still lived in a primitive tribal society. But today, women's tattoos, slash-and-burn cultivation and hunting by bow and arrows are no longer seen. Six years ago when I visited the Wuzhi Mountains, I saw some people who still had designs tattooed on their faces. But this time, when I came there again, I did not see any. People wearing Li ethnic clothes also had become scarcer.

The Miao people living in the Wuzhi Mountains are the descendants of immigrants from the mainland during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). They have their own written language whereas the Lis do not. Their customs have not changed as much as the Lis'. Today, all Miao women, young and old, still wear traditional Miao clothes. Over the years, however, their traditional cultural features have weakened somewhat. Fortunately, some Li and Miao hamlets in the suburban districts still have maintained much of their original cultural practices for tourists to study the customs of the ethnic groups.

I went to revisit Fanmao Village near the tourist mountain villa in Tongshi. At the entrance to the village, I found that the two

gates had been adorned with bamboo in a style even more primitive than I had seen last time. The clothes of the young men and women from the Li nationality standing in front of the two gates were also different in style. They were hawking their wares to tourists. This was a folk custom village established by two groups of local people who, in the spirit of the times, knew how to earn a living by utilizing their own resources.

As I walked from village to village, I saw many things that were difficult to find in remote areas. Take silk weaving for example. The silk woven by the Lis was more advanced than that in the Central Plains in the mainland in terms of technique and was sent as tribute to the imperial court. On my last visit I saw the Li silk only in the Li women's skirts and headresses. But this time around, I found in the folk custom village many rare silk pieces handed down from the Li people's ancestors including large pieces used to cover people's bodies after they had died. These precious pieces were exquisitely patterned and brightly coloured.

The Li women who demonstrated how to weave silk in front of the crowds of visitors worked very fast without stopping. In fact they were performing their daily tasks rather than giving a demonstration.

After the demonstration, I visited the Doushuihe Miao Village at Mao'an sixteen kilometres away from Tongshi. Two folk custom villages had been established there. The Miao people here attracted people by organizing folklore exhibitions and giving song and dance performances. Even preschool children knew how to solicit customers. They dressed gaily and let the curious take photos of them for tips. The old-timers, however, were not

disturbed by the flocks of tourists. They persevered in their own way of living.

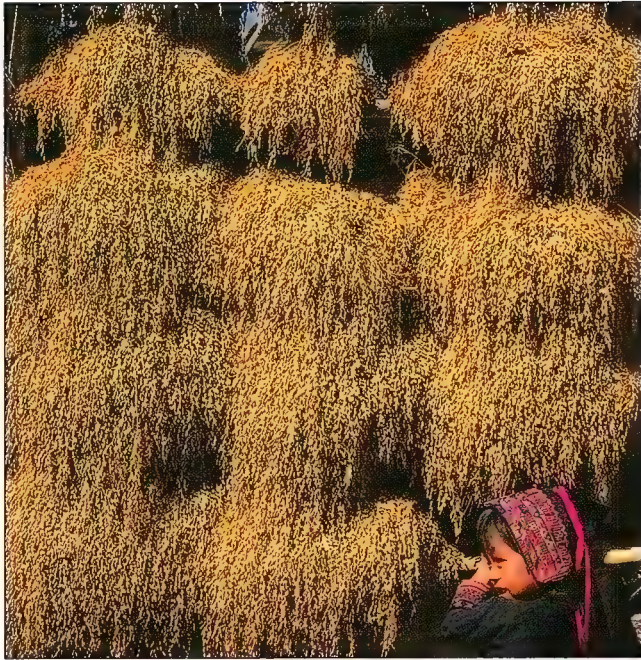
I loved the songs and dances performed in the Li and Miao folk custom village. Although the performance standards were not as high as that of professionals, all the performers were locally born and bred, and their rendition had a typically local flavour, conveying a down-to-earth impression of life. For anyone who is so inclined, the two hotels in Tongshi, the Tongshi Travel Villa and the Tongshi Holiday Resort, provide more polished routines. Most of the performers are also Lis and Miaos, and they have received professional training. Their programmes help people to understand more clearly the uniquely local culture and customs.

Part of the evening's entertainment was an interesting Miao dance called "The Pinching Dance". The young people of the Miao nationality love to sing in antiphonal style at festivals. These activities also serve as an opportunity to find sweethearts. If a young man finds a girl he fancies, he walks up to her and gives her a pinch, and if the girl reciprocates she returns the pinch. The harder the pinch the greater the affection it expresses. The dance movements were very lively and truly touching.

I could not resist the temptation to enjoy the Li cuisine in the tourist mountain villa. Most of the Li food consisted of delicacies from the mountains and local game, and the dishes in which the food was placed were made of bamboo and wood. When a gaily clad Li girl brought the delicately fragrant rice cooked in bamboo tubes and poured the best Li wine — Shanlan Wine, I was well nigh overcome even before I drank the wine.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

A young Li girl enjoys playing on a swing suspended from a tree branch.



Preparing ears of grain after harvest in this manner creates a seasonal scenic attraction.



The "Pinching Dance" of the Miao nationality

Tourist Routes Around Hainan

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN



Night time in Haikou

Hainan Island has recently become one of China's most popular tourist areas, due to its natural scenery and warm climate. The best itinerary to follow while visiting Hainan is to make a round-the-island tour. Most visitors to Hainan start from Haikou, the capital of the province, and follow the eastern and middle routes, which takes five days. If the Wuzhi Mountains or Danxian on the western route is to be included, two more days are needed. A suggested itinerary is as follows.

First Day Arrive at Haikou and go sightseeing, visiting the Tomb of Hai Rui and a dormant volcano crater, staying the night at Haikou.

Second Day Visit Wugong Shrine at Qionghshan, the Memorial Hall of Su Dongpo, the mangrove in the sea, the ancestral home of Soong Ching Ling, the Confucius Temple and the Dongjiao Coconut Grove, putting up for the night at Dongjiao.

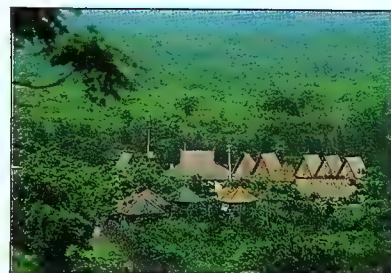
Third day Visit Wanquan River, Dongshan Ridge and the Xinglong Hot Springs, lodging at Xinglong or Sanya.

Fourth Day Visit Sanya, Yalong Bay or Dadonghai Beach, Luhuitou, Tianya Haijiao, as well as "Bofu Shuangdai" and the Yazhou Ancient City if time permits. Proceed to Tongshi in the afternoon, visiting the Miao Village at Mao'an on the way, staying the night at Tongshi and watching Li and Miao songs and dances in the evening.

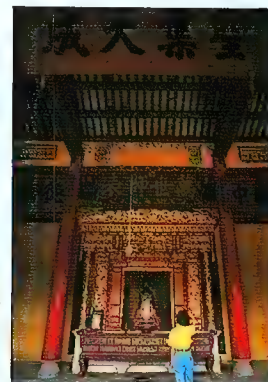
Fifth Day Visit the Li village at Fanmao and the Miao village at Mao'an (in case there is not enough time to visit them on the fourth day). Return to Haikou in the afternoon, visiting Fengmu Deer Farm at Qionghong on the way and lodging at Haikou. For those who intend to visit the Wuzhi Mountains, they can proceed to the mountains and stay overnight at Wuzhi Villa, then go up the mountains on the sixth day and return to Haikou on the seventh day. Those who are interested in visiting Danxian County can go there on this day and stay in the guesthouse at the Tropical Botanical Garden, visit the garden and the Dongpo Academy the following day and then return to Haikou.

Transportation: Highway transport is convenient on the island, with a number of buses making many daily runs to the tourist attractions. The exception to this is the Wuzhi Mountains, whose facilities are at present under development. As a consequence buses travelling to these mountains are few and far between — it is more convenient to hire a car from Tongshi.





The Holiday Resort at the foot of Ma'anling volcano



The Confucius Temple in Wenchang is the most well-preserved architectural relic in Hainan.



Picturesque Dongjiao Coconut Grove in Wenchang



Dongpo Academy in Danxian County (by Wang Miao)



Li people from Tongshi performing the Mask Dance (by Huang Yiming)



Tianya Haijiao in Sanya is famed for its ancient inscriptions and huge boulders (by Wang Miao).



The Wanquan River near Jiaji Town, Qionghai County



A statue depicting the legend of the hunter and the deer erected at Luhuitou, Sanya

However, the Wuzhi Villa will soon have its own coaches to bring visitors to the Wuzhi Mountains. For more details one can contact the construction office of the Wuzhi Villa at Tongshi Holiday Resort in Tongshi.

Highlights of the Island

Wugong (Five Lords) Shrine Located on the boundary of the county seat of Qiongzhan five kilometres south of Haikou, the shrine was first built in 1889 during the Qing Dynasty to commemorate the five historic figures Li Deyu, Li Gang, Zhao Ding, Hu Quan and Li Guang, who were relegated to Hainan Island during the Tang and Song Dynasties (618-1279). Constructed in a unique style, the shrine is reputed as being the best structure in all of Hainan.

Memorial Hall of Su Dongpo, Fusu Spring, Dongzhuo Pavilion Standing by the Wugong Shrine, the Memorial Hall of Su Dongpo, first built in 1617 during the Ming Dynasty, was dedicated to the Song Dynasty scholar-official Su Dongpo (1037-1101). In 1097 at the age of 61, Su Dongpo was relegated to Hainan from Huizhou, where he remained. When he saw the local residents drink turbid water drawn from the moat, he pointed to the ground and said, "Dig here and you will find dual springs." The Fusu (Floating Millet) Spring, one of the two springs Su Dongpo helped to dig out, still exists today. Later a pavilion named Dongzhuo was built nearby.

Tomb of Hai Rui A native of Qiongzhan County, Hai Rui (1514-1587) was an official well-known for his honesty and righteousness. After his death, his coffin was brought back to Hainan and buried in Binya Village, about seven kilometres from the western suburbs of Haikou. The long tomb passage, paved with granite, is flanked by stone figures and animals.

Ma'anling Crater Located about 18 kilometres southwest of Haikou, this is one of the best-preserved dormant volcano craters in the world. The site is surrounded by many mysterious caves, the largest of which is the 3,000-metre-long Wolong (Reclining Dragon) Cave.

Villages in the Sea The ruins of some ancient villages can be seen at low tide in the vicinity of Yanhai, in Qiongzhan County and Puqian Town in Wenchang County. The ruins were caused by a serious earthquake in 1605 whose epicentre was on the north coast of the island. The land area which sank as a result was over 100 square kilometres.

Mangrove Forest in the Sea The Wenchang River at Wenchang County and Yanfeng Town in Qiongzhan County each boast 2,000 hectares of mangrove forest, with numerous varieties of the tree, accounting for 90 per cent of the total amount in China.

Qiongtai Academy Located at the rear of the present Qiongtai Normal School in Fucheng Town, the county seat of Qiongzhan, the Qiongtai Academy, first built in 1710 during the Qing Dynasty was the

highest institution of learning in Hainan. It is also the inspiration for the famous opera *Searching the Academy*. When the original structure was expanded in 1753, it was altered into the present two-storey Kuixing Tower.

Confucius Temple The temple, also known as the Holy Hall, is located at Wendong Road in the county seat of Wenchang. Founded between 1041 and 1048 during the Northern Song Dynasty, it is the only well-preserved ancient architectural complex in Hainan. Relics in the temple's collection include imperial seals and boards with horizontal inscriptions of several Qing emperors.

Ancestral Home of the Soongs The ancestral home of Soong Ching Ling, Madam Sun Yat-sen, is located at Guluyuan Village in Changsa Town, Wenchang County, 80 kilometres from Haikou.

Dongjiao Coconut Grove Dongjiao Town in Wenchang County boasts more than 500,000 coconut palms. The coconut grove in Jianhua Mountain in the town features a variety of palms. The holiday resort built at the beach is an ideal site for fun and relaxation.

Tongguling (Brass Drum Ridge) Rising 388 metres above sea level on the coast of the South China Sea in Longlou, Wenchang County, Tongguling Ridge offers one of the best vantage points for a view of the sun rising over the sea. Scenic spots found here include Xiandian (Fairy Hall), Xiandong (Fairy Cave) and Stone Cave. The three-metre-high Wind Moving Rock stands steadily on the ridge, though it rocks when strong winds blow.

Wanquan River The 162-kilometre-long Wanquan River, the third longest river on the island, has its source in the Wuzhi Mountains. In its upper reaches, the river features many dangerous shoals with swift currents, while in the lower reaches which are flanked by coconut groves, the water surface becomes spacious. Visitors can cruise along the river from Jiayi Town in Qiongzhan County and enjoy the beautiful scenery here. The Jiayi duck, a speciality along the river, is one of the most famous dishes in Hainan.

Dongshanling Ridge Located on the eastern coast of the island two kilometres from the county seat of Wanning, this site is characterized by strangely-shaped rocks and deep caves. There are some ruins of ancient architectural structures, among which is the Memorial Hall of Li Gang, also known as Chaoyin Temple, built in the Ming Dynasty in honour of the Song Dynasty minister Li Gang.

Dongshan mutton is one of the most popular dishes in Hainan, in addition to Zhugu (Partridge) Tea, which is sweet and aromatic and also has beneficial therapeutic effects in treating colds.

Xinglong Hot Springs Situated 25 kilometres from the county seat of Wanning is a fascinating tropical botanical garden full of exotic flowers and fruits. In the Xinglong Hot Springs Hotel, one can relax in a hot spring swimming pool and hot spring bathtubs, and refresh oneself with a cup of the well-known Xinglong coffee.

Monkey Island Located at Xincun Port on the Nanwan Peninsula, 15 kilometres from the county seat of Lingshui, this site is the habitat of nearly 20 groups of over 1,000 macaques, which can be watched from the special Monkey Watching Corridor at feeding time.

Yalong Bay Famed as China's most beautiful virgin beach, this bay is located 20 kilometres east of Sanya City. The 20-kilometre-long beach with its fine sand is ideal for tourism. The sea waters here are azure blue and limpid, with a transparency of nine metres. The water temperature in winter is around 23°C.

Tianya Haijiao Located 18 kilometres northwest of Sanya City, this scenic spot is composed of about 100 strange rock formations. On two of these rocks are the Chinese characters "Tianya" and "Haijiao" (together meaning the ends of the earth) carved during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), hence the name of the site.

Luhuitou (The Deer Turns Its Head) Located on the crescent-shaped Sanya Bay, this site's name comes from a popular legend. The story has it that a young hunter of the Li nationality once chased a beautiful golden deer until it halted by Sanya Bay. Confronted by the vast South China Sea beneath the sheer cliff, the deer suddenly turned its head and smiled, hence the name of the site. The story does not end here. In a twinkling of the eye, the animal turned into a beautiful girl, who later became the wife of the young hunter. Today a sculpture of the hunter and the girl is erected at Luhuitou atop a hill. From here one can enjoy a panoramic view of the seascape at Sanya Bay.

Dadonghai Beach About two kilometres away from Sanya City lies Dadonghai Beach, a rare winter water resort in China. The Dadonghai Hotel Travel Centre has been set up here, offering various services for tourists.

Villages of the Lis and Miaos The Li and Miao nationalities live in compact communities at Tongshi and Wuzhishan. These people still retain their traditional customs and simple ways of life, which epitomize the unique and colourful style of the nationalities in Hainan.

Dongpo Academy Located in Danxian County, about 180 kilometres from Haikou, the site of this academy was where Su Dongpo, accompanied by his youngest son, spent his three-year exile before the year 890. Later this place was named Dongpo Village and a statue of Su was erected in his memory. Dongpo Academy is composed of several buildings including Zaijiu (Wine Holding) Hall, Zaijiu Pavilion and a study. **Tropical Economic Botanical Garden** This 32-hectare garden is set within the South China Academy of Tropical Crops near Nada Town in Danxian County. With over 1,000 rare tropical plants, it is a fascinating collection of tropical plants found the world over.

Translated by K. V. Ku



Stone animals flank the passage along the Tomb of Hai Rui.



The Qiongtai Academy at Qiongzhan was once the highest institution of learning in Hainan.



Tongshi was once the capital of the Li and Miao Autonomous Prefecture (by Liu Xiangyang).



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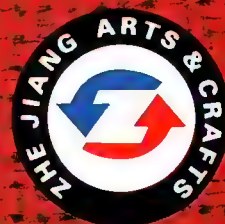
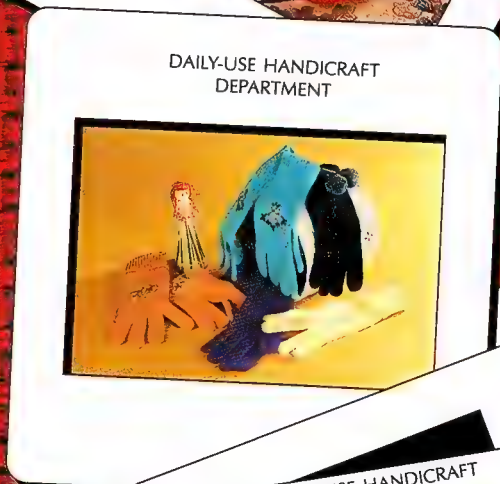
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◀ Every year black-headed gulls flock to Kunming to spend the winter. The Cuihu (Green Lake) becomes a happy playground for both people and the birds (by Liu Jianming).

▼ At the Nanda Bridge in Kunming, people hurrying to work in the morning do not forget to feed the black-headed gulls with bread (by Chen Anding).



Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENG
ARTICLE BY XIAN YANYUN & SHI BAOXIU

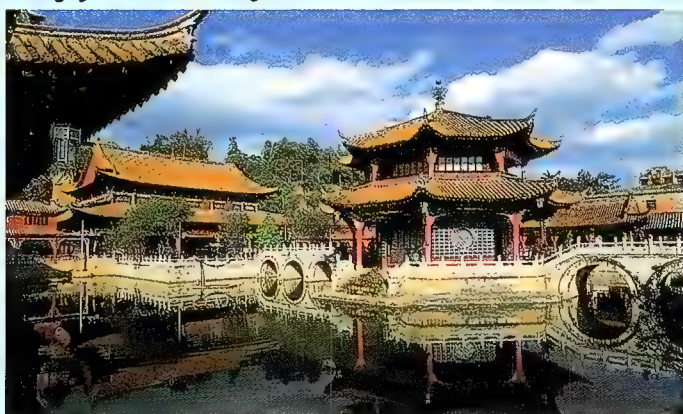
During every autumn, flocks of gulls, in escaping from the cold wind along the northern sea coast, fly thousands of miles to the city of Kunming, and live here from December to March. They know this is the place where the climate is springlike the year round, without the extremes of heat or cold.

Human travellers may visit this commercial and cultural centre of Yunnan in China's southwest any day in any season of the year and be assured of mild weather and see lush vegetation. Besides the climate, the mirror-like lakes, most notably Dianchi Lake, the majestic mountains, such as the Western Hills, the graceful ancient towers, pavilions and temples and the flowers which are ever in bloom together have made the place a favourite spot for tourists all year round.

The Lake and Hill

Though not large in size, the city of Kunming at an elevation of 1,650 to 2,400 metres above sea level embraces mountains, rivers and

The Yuantong Temple at the foot of the hill bearing the same name has a history of over a thousand years.



lakes. Of these, the Cuihu Lake (Green Lake) and the Yuantong Temple are certainly memorable attractions.

Like a green jade inlaid in the northwestern corner of the city, Cuihu Lake, which is somewhat analogous to West Lake in Hangzhou, adds a unique charm to the place. Originating from nine springs, it was transformed into a lake known as the Nine Dragon Lake. In the early years of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the lake area was part of the mansion of Wu Sangui, a Ming Dynasty general whose defection to the Qing forces removed the last obstacle to the triumph of the Qing over the Ming. This episode in history is evident as structures at the lake have an architectural style reminiscent of royal palaces. The Mid-Lake Pavilion and the Lotus Temple house a great collection of tablets and couplets with inscriptions in the handwriting of outstanding historical figures. Apparently the local dignitaries had been to West Lake in Hangzhou and learned from the Northern Song noted scholar-official Su Dongpo (1037-1101) and the Tang poet Bai Juyi (772-846), they also built two causeways on the lake in Kunming, called the "Ruan Causeway" and "Tang Causeway", cutting the lake into four parts. The bridges in different sizes and shapes have given the lake a more fascinating atmosphere. Enhancing this is the fact that flowers are in bloom throughout the year on the lake bank, creating an ambience of a flower garden without winter.

But there are also scenic hills and mountains in abundance here. Yuantong Hill in the northeast corner of the city is one of Kunming's most beautiful mountains. When viewed from afar, the hill appears dark green with sturdy trees and rocks. Its surface reminds one of a snail shell, thus the sobriquet Luofeng (Snail Peak) Hill.

On a beautiful hill like this, it is not surprising to find temples and pagodas. The Yuantong Temple, first built during the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt during the Yuan, is located on the southern slope of the hill. Inside the temple complex, ancient pines and cypresses are in abundance. There are small bridges over creeks, the Stone Tablet Tower, the



The Green Lake is embellished with causeways, islets, pavilions and towers.

Octagonal Pavilion in the middle of a square pool and the imposing Mahavira Hill. Thirty to forty stone steps on both sides of the hall lead to a platform where many inscriptions are found on precipitous cliffs. There are also some stone caves which were inhabited or visited by noted figures through different dynasties. Further up, stand the Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy) Pavilion and the Jieyin (Jishi's) Hall. The summit of Yuantong Hill is crowned with Yiran Pavilion from where one can enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains, and the houses and streets in Kunming.

The top of the hill is within the boundary of the Yuantong Park and Zoo, home to over a hundred species of wildlife. Among them, visitors are especially attracted by Yunnan's indigenous species of elephant, leaf monkey, peacock and parrot. In addition, over 150 kinds of plants grow here and when in bloom they turn the entire park into a sea of colourful flowers.

Huating Temple

The Western Hills on the western shore of Dianchi Lake is a collective name given to Gaoyao, Luohan, Huating and Taihua Hills that stretch over forty kilometres. The grotesque peaks, aged trees and monasteries shaded by the trees together form a scenic area worth visiting on its own or as part of a trip to Dianchi Lake. The hills boast an unsurpassed charm in all of southern Yunnan.

The highlights of the Western Hills Scenic Area consist of the Puxian (Samantabhadra) Temple, Sheng'an Temple, Huating Temple, Taihua Temple, Sanqing Tower and Longmen (Dragon Gate).

To get to these places, visitors can take the No. 6 bus or a shuttle mini-bus from Kunming and alight at Gaoyao Village. The first spot to visit is the Puxian Temple, followed by the Sheng'an Temple, named after a scholar called Yang Sheng'an who lived from 1488-1559 and his residence known as Gaoyao Mansion. Turning southward and ascending the hills one will come across a group of structures set deep in the cypress and pine groves — the Huating Temple.

The temple, originally dating back to the Yuan Dynasty, consists of three tiers on a slope surrounded by green bamboo, all very magnificent and closely linked. The first tier is the Tianwang (Deva Kings) Hall, in which theilded statue of Maitreya sits in the middle with the four Deva Kings and two great guardians flanking him. The second tier is where the Mahavira Hall of the temple stands. The tall and spacious hall houses the statues of the serious looking Trikala Buddhas, that is, the Buddha of the Past, the Present and the Future. The hall is also famous for its five hundred arhat figures on the walls flanking the Trikala Buddhas. As it is located deep in the wooded hill, the temple has largely been remained intact despite the many turbulent

Kunming — The City of Eternal Spring

Kunming is 1,894 metres above sea level. This elevation endows the city with a mild climate. Although the city is located at a latitude similar to Taipei, Xiamen and Guilin, it is like spring all the year round, in contrast to these places. With an average temperature of 15°C, Kunming is a favourable tourist destination in all seasons, which is quite rare.

Kunming offers a springlike climate because it is situated in the Central Yunnan Basin between the Hengduan Range and the Eastern Yunnan Plateau. The cold wind from the north is intercepted by the mountain ranges and loses its momentum, and the continental warm currents from north India constantly dominate the area, so that in winter Kunming has plenty of sunshine and is not cold. In summer, the hot, damp currents from the Bay of Bengal and the Beibu Gulf bring humid air and abundant rainfall, thus Kunming is also not hot in summer.

In recent years, when winter sets in countless black-headed gulls migrate from the north to Kunming for the winter. They live near Cuihu Lake and the Panlong (Coiling Dragon) River near the eastern gate of the city. People passing by these places on their way to and from work often stop to feed the birds.

Hurry with your bread or it may be taken away by the gulls (by Liu Jianhua).



The black-headed gulls are no strangers to busy city life (by Liu Jianhua).

From the Dragon Gate perched on the precipitous cliff of the Western Hills, one is rewarded with a panoramic view of Dianchi Lake down below (by Wu Jialin).



Flowers in Full Bloom All Year Round

With its pleasant weather and fertile soil, Kunming has long been known for its beautiful flowers. Many species of flowers including camellia, yulan magnolia, oriental cherry, Chinese flowering crabapple, Chinese rose, sweet-scented osmanthus, chrysanthemum, azalea, and orchid decorate the landscape. Among them the camellia, azalea, magnolia and primrose are the four most famous, with the camellia honoured as the city flower. Flowers are to be seen the whole year round in the fields and parks, on the streets, and on the balconies of houses. Florists are found on all busy streets and some flower dealers even combine their stands to form large flower markets, whose sweet scent fills the streets.

In recent years, the varieties of fresh flowers available in Kunming have changed. Some years ago most of the flowers grown by farmers were those in season. Since the introduction of flower nurseries, flower raising is now not limited by the seasons. Many flower farms have been established thanks to investment from Hong Kong and Taiwan, and new species such as the tulip, *Gypsophila elegans*, forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and African chrysanthemum, not seen in the past, have added to Kunming's charm.

A peculiar sight in Kunming is that of people wearing clothes which seem out of season. The temperature here varies greatly between morning and evening and between clear and rainy days. But no matter how hot it is, you will not perspire, and no matter how cold it turns, there is little nip in the air. So it is not necessary for Kunming people to prepare light clothes for summer and heavy padded clothes for winter. However, a woollen sweater is a must for the whole year. Living in such a climate, people can enjoy great flexibility in what they wear. In winter it is not too hot to wear a fashionable quilted jacket, and neither is it too cold to wear a pair of light stockings. The streams of people walking down the streets appear to have little regard for what they are wearing. Their clothes may be light or heavy, a lot or a little. The criteria seems to be simply that they look good and feel comfortable.

Clothing shops enjoy brisk business.



Streets in Kunming are lined with shops selling fresh flowers.

mes that the region has experienced. Visitors are rewarded, therefore, with a rich collection of poems, inscriptions and couplets praising the praise of the temple left by scholars since its founding. Calligraphic works by people both past and present can also be observed in the temple.

Rare Flowers in Ancient Temple

After visiting Huating Temple, visitors can either walk or take the bus to the Taihua Temple, which is just one kilometre away. Among the tourist spots on the Western Hills, the Taihua Temple stands out for its quiet setting and flowers, particularly camellia and magnolia. The abundant space and rich sunshine have given rise to the custom of monks cultivating a beautiful garden. Today, in fact, many rare species of flowers can be seen in the temple garden such as "Precious Pearl", a very expensive kind of camellia and *Magnolia Soulangeana*. Also noteworthy are the plum trees whose leaves do not fall even in

mid-winter, in contrast to the plum trees in the city proper where the temperature in winter is not low.

To residents in Kunming, the Taihua Temple is a treasure-trove of precious flowers. During the blooming seasons, flower lovers will come to the temple and find themselves reluctant to depart.

Further southward up the hill for two more kilometres, one will see above the lake sheer cliffs on which towers and houses are perched as if they were hanging in mid-air over the water. These structures, known as the Sanqing Tower, are a famous Taoist temple.

A Breathtaking Walk

The journey to the Taoist temple Sanqing Tower begins along the Qianbu (Thousand Step) Cliff, past the Ruyu Temple, where a downward glance at Dianchi Lake from the cliff path makes one dizzy. Nearby, the Ruyu Spring spouts out crystal clear and refresh-

ingly sweet water. Further up, are the Danu (Greater Ox) Well and Xiaoniu (Lesser Ox) Well and the Arhat Cliff. Negotiating another section of seemingly vertical stone steps finally takes one to the Sanqing Tower. This temple, consisting of nine courtyards, is built on a section of very precipitous mountainside. Every step requires extreme care. The steps pass the Lingguan Hall, Yuhuang (Jade Emperor) Tower, Laozi Temple, Feiyun (Flying Cloud) Tower, Master Lü's Hall, Qisheng (Seven Sages) Hall and the Lingxiao Tower. A breathtaking tour of these ancient structures on cliffs which appear dangerous provides unusual excitement.

The path from the Sanqing Tower to the Dragon Gate seems even more perilous. Every step of the overhanging passageway is thrilling. Visitors here are always extra-cautious while walking the passageway because they can easily get the impression that if they are careless, they may slide down the cliffs and fall into the lake deep below.

Dragon Gate

This path was completed during a period of seventy-two years of careful work by artisans during the Qing Dynasty. It is said that during the construction, some of the workers lost their lives after they fell off the cliff. The danger inherent in the construction resulted in high pay for the workers: the amount of stones chiselled off was rewarded with an equal amount of rice.

The overhanging passageway finally takes one to the Datian (Attainment of Heaven) Tower at the summit, also known as the Dragon Gate. Originally the characters announcing the "Dragon Gate" were seen on a tablet of a stone archway in front of the Datian Tower and gradually became the more commonly used name for the tower. The tower is actually a stone cave, described by the locals as the "New Stone House". The entire cave, including the ceiling, floor, statues, tables, incense burners, candle stands, flower vases and other objects of sacrifices to gods were all chiselled out of the same single piece of rock. Outside the cave, a viewing platform over two metres deep and more than three metres wide was also carved out of the mountain body. The railings of the platform decorated with carved flower patterns are again part of the mountain. On the eaves of the Datian Tower are masterpieces of bas-relief carvings depicting an immortal riding on a flying crane. People today find it difficult to imagine how ancient artisans completed this wonderful work since it is out of the question to build a scaffold on a cliff dozens of metres high.

From the viewing platform outside the tower, one is rewarded with a sight of the vast expanse of Dianchi Lake dotted with white boat sails. At the end of the rippling water, the green water merges with the blue sky.

The Graceful and Magnificent Dianchi Lake

Dianchi Lake in Kunming is the largest fresh water lake on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and the sixth largest in China. The vast expanse of water embraced by mountains on all sides is as graceful as Taihu Lake in Jiangsu and Zhejiang and as magnificent as the sea. A trip around the lake has the added advantage of visiting a series of natural scenic spots.

Visitors may take different types of boats at the dock at the end of the Daguan Road in the city proper to cruise on the lake or take Bus No. 6 that goes to the Western Hills. There are also tourist buses carrying passengers to all the surrounding sites of scenic and historical interest.

For a typical itinerary around the lake, one may first ascend the Daguan (Grand View) Tower in the urban district, then go and see the Haigeng Park, stop to visit the Panlong (Coiling Dragon) Temple and then turn south to Kunyang, the hometown of the Ming Dynasty navigator Zheng He (1371-1435). From Kunyang, one can head north along the west bank through the Tanglang (Mantis) Valley to the Konggu (Empty Valley) Garden at the Baiyukou before eventually reaching the Dragon Gate, from where the visitor can enjoy a panoramic view of the lake and surrounding hills.



As a gentle breeze blows up on Dianchi Lake, the boat raises its sail.

Large: A small fishing boat makes its way through the rippling Dianchi Lake.



Young at Heart

In the centre of Kunming there is a large public square called the East Wind Square, where hundreds of people, men and women, perform physical exercises every morning. The majority are middle-aged or elderly. Some play badminton, practise *taijiquan* or *qigong*. But many more prefer aerobics or social dancing. The most interesting is the Small Box Dance which originated with the Yi people. Several dozen bicycles are first rested together on the ground, and then people stand around them in a circle, with a small drum-like box in each hand. When they flick the boxes with their fingers, a melodious percussion sound is produced to form a kind of rhythmical music, to which they dance. With dozens of such drums being hit at the same time, a festive atmosphere is created.

In addition to dancing, many people love to sing. On the Bamboo Grove Islet at Lake Cuihu, older people often gather to sing folk songs antiphonally. Their singing often attracts crowds of onlookers. In the small lanes where tourists seldom venture, old people who love to sing Huadeng and Yunnan operas gather in teahouses to demonstrate their performing and singing talents. On Sundays, some of the more serious practitioners set up stage props on the open ground in the woods, where they put on make-up and costumes to give performances.

Kunming natives are said to be young at heart. They feel not the least bit shy or embarrassed about singing and dancing before crowds of people. The pleasant weather of the City of Eternal Spring has fostered habits such as travelling from place to place to enjoy the beauty of nature, exercising, dancing, singing and raising birds.

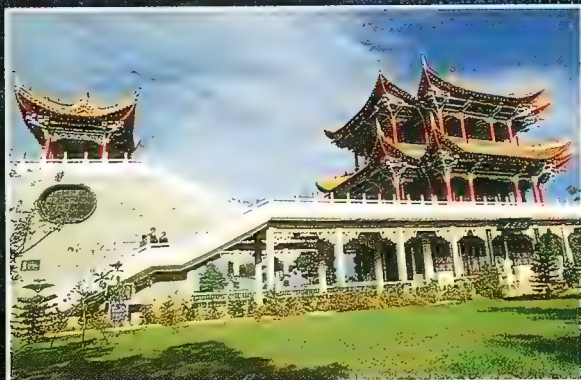
Recently, karaoke has become a fashionable activity on the streets in Kunming. At night markets many shops set up TV sets and musical equipment by the roadside to attract customers. Crowds of youngsters are drawn to these shops. Families who have karaoke sets are not content simply to sing songs within the confines of their homes, so they move their karaoke sets onto the streets and sing until the wee hours.



► *The leading dancer keeps the keys to her bicycle and home around her neck.*



On Sundays, opera fans gather in the Cuihu Park, bringing their own costumes and putting on make-up and perform for their own satisfaction (by Wang Miao).

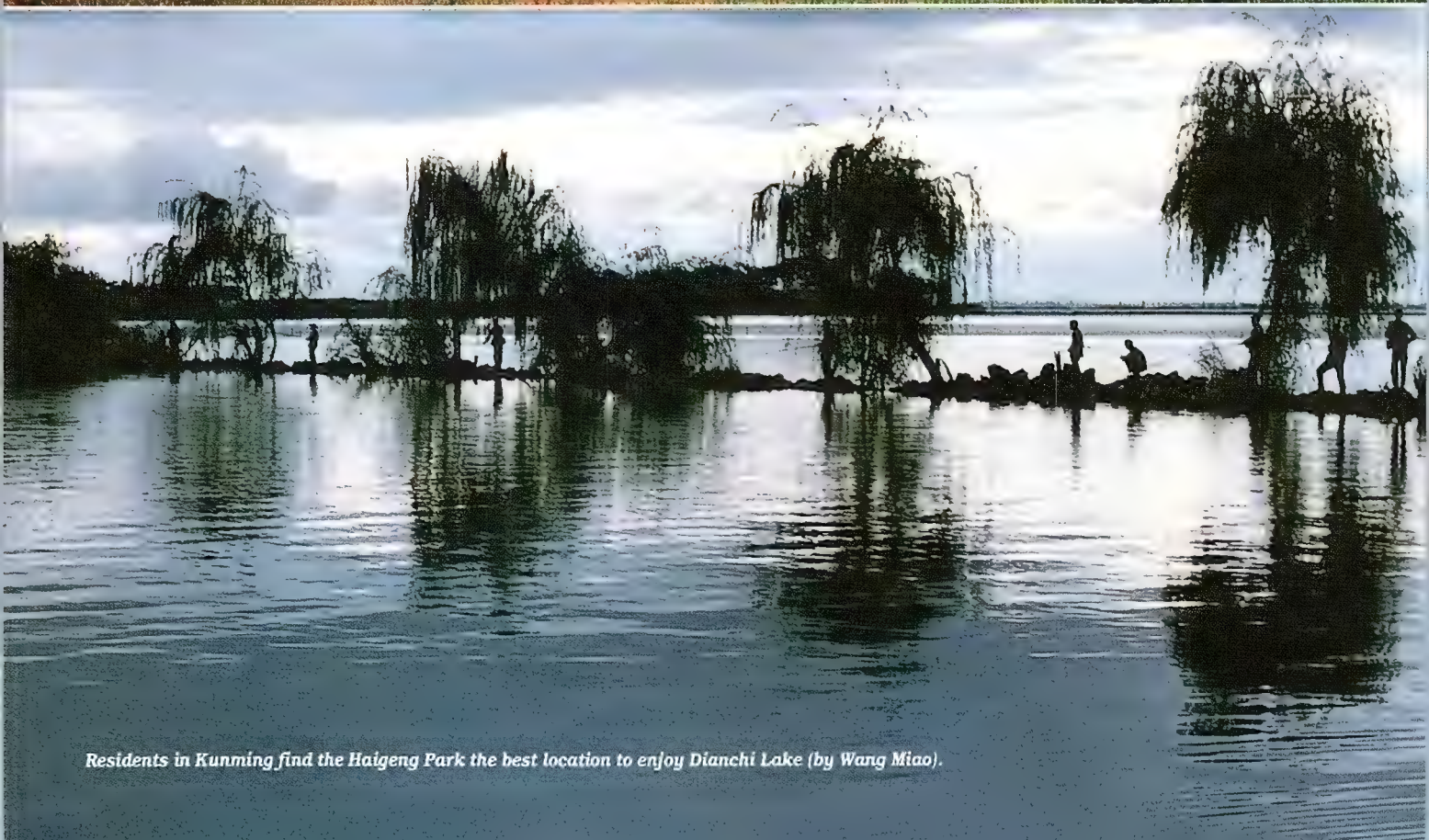


Kunyang, on the southern bank of Dianchi Lake, looks across at the city of Kunming beyond the lake. It is the hometown of Zheng He, the Ming Dynasty eunuch-official who made a total of seven voyages. Even the buildings on the Yueshan (Moon Hill) at Kunyang were built to resemble ocean-going junks.



The newly completed Nationalities Village in the Haigeng Park houses replicas of scenic spots and residences of the Dai, Bai and other ethnic minorities indigenous to Yunnan Province. This Buddhist pagoda displays architecture typical of regions inhabited by the Dais.

The area around Dianchi Lake is a rich producer of fruits. During the spring, the place is a world of white pear blossoms and pink peach flower (by He Fangnan).



Residents in Kunming find the Haigeng Park the best location to enjoy Dianchi Lake (by Wang Miao).

Fresh Vegetables Abundant in All Seasons

Like the flowers described above, fresh vegetables are in abundant supply the whole year round in Kunming. At the food market, perhaps the most striking thing is the great variety of fresh vegetables in different colours: tender green, purple, red or white. More than this, there are also different types of edible wild herbs and mountain mushrooms, whose names no one appears to know. No matter what time of year you go to the food market, it always seems as if all vegetables are in season in Kunming.

Yunnan dishes, though not renowned in China, are delicious and tasty. Some excellent examples of local food include *Qiguo* (Pot-Steamd) Chicken and *Guoqiao Mixian* (Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodles). Both of these Yunnan dishes are light and delicate.

The pot for steaming chicken is a round purple pottery jar with an air vent on top. Chicken, *tianqi* medicinal herbs and condiments are put in the pot. Several pots are piled together in a steamer, which is cooked over a strong fire for three or four hours. The steam enters the pottery jar through the air vent, condenses into water and then turns into soup. Pot-steamed chicken soup is very tasty.

There is an interesting legend about Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodles. There was once a scholar from Mengzi who studied very hard, to the extent of isolating himself on an islet in the South Lake. His wife delivered his meals to him every day. As the distance she travelled was quite far, by the time she arrived, the food was often cold. One day she prepared a jar of chicken soup for him. When she got to his study she felt the jar with her hand and found it was still quite warm. She wondered about this for a long time and discovered that it was the thick layer of chicken fat on top of the soup that had conserved the heat. Enlightened by this, she used the hot chicken soup to heat rice, noodles, meat and vegetables for her husband on the spot. Because she had to cross a bridge each time she delivered the food, the food was later called Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodles. As the legend was connected with Mengzi, all Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodle restaurants in Kunming inscribed their signboards with characters reading "Mengzi's Food, the Orthodox School". Compared to the original, today's Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodles have been improved greatly. The condiments, for example, have increased to several dozen different ingredients. Of course, the price has also changed. In the past a bowl cost only one and a half yuan, but now sells for five or ten yuan, or even more.

The Grand View Tower and Its Long Couplet

The Grand View Tower stands on the northern bank of Dianchi Lake and is just two kilometres southwest of downtown Kunming. Four bus routes connect the site with other places of interest. The purpose for the ancient people to build the tower is obvious: to help visitors have a better view of the lake and its environs. Indeed, at the top of the tower, one's eyes are greeted not only by the beautiful lake but the Western Hills as well.

Many well-known historic figures have left their mark here at the tower in the form of inscriptions and poems. The most unique of this genre is a couplet made up of 180 characters written by the Qing Dynasty poet Sun Ran. Ever since it was written no visitor to the tower has ever failed to take an interested look at the writing. Describing the beauty surrounding the lake in one half and the history of Yunnan in the other, it is one of the best known in China. In addition, there are a number of other tourist attractions around the lake such as the Cuigeng (Plough Urging) Hall, Lansheng (Scenery Embracing)

Tower, Mumeng (Shepherd's Dream) Pavilion, Yongyue (Full Moon) Pavilion, Guanjia (Crop Observation) Hall and Caiyun (Colourful Clouds) Cliff whose names simply make one want to get away for a visit.

The Largest Golden Palace in China

The No. 10 bus leaves at the Chuanxin Tower and after heading seven kilometres east from the city of Kunming it arrives at the foot of the Parrot Hill. Home to this lovely bird, after which it is named, the hill is alive with the singing and chattering of parrots. In this area, however, the most renowned site of interest is the Tongwa (Bronze Tile) Temple, commonly referred to as the "Golden Palace".

The bus usually stops at the Yingxian (Greeting Immortal) Bridge. Visitors then ascend the hill along spiraling stone steps, by the aged tree-shaded Three Heavenly Gate, through the Gubao (Ancient Castle) Gate which resembles the entrance to the Forbidden City in Beijing and are greeted by a magnificent palace structure in the centre of an open courtyard of the Taihe (Supreme Harmony) Palace. This is the famous Golden Palace.

The Qiguo chicken from the roadside restaurant is most enticing.



Yunnan's famous Crossing-the-Bridge Rice Noodles (by Xu Jinyan)

The 6.5-metre-high structure occupies an area of 180 square metres. Entirely modelled after the architectural style of flying double-eave wooden pavilions, the brackets joining the beams with the columns, doors and windows, the roof tiles, the inscribed horizontal boards and vertical couplets, the statues of gods, the sacrificial tables, incense burners and other important objects of the Golden Palace are all cast from bronze. Outside, beneath the stone steps leading up to the palace, are two auxiliary pavilions and two pillars supporting a flag which are all fashioned from bronze as well. As the god Zhenwu and other gods worshipped in the hall are gilded statues, the structure gradually attained the name of Golden Palace and the original name Bronze Palace eventually lost fashion.

Inscriptions on the beam indicate that the palace was cast by Wu Sangui during the early years of the Qing Dynasty. Today, it remains the largest bronze palace in China as it is much better preserved than the Golden Palace in the Summer Palace in Beijing and larger than the one at the Wudang Mountains in Hubei Province.

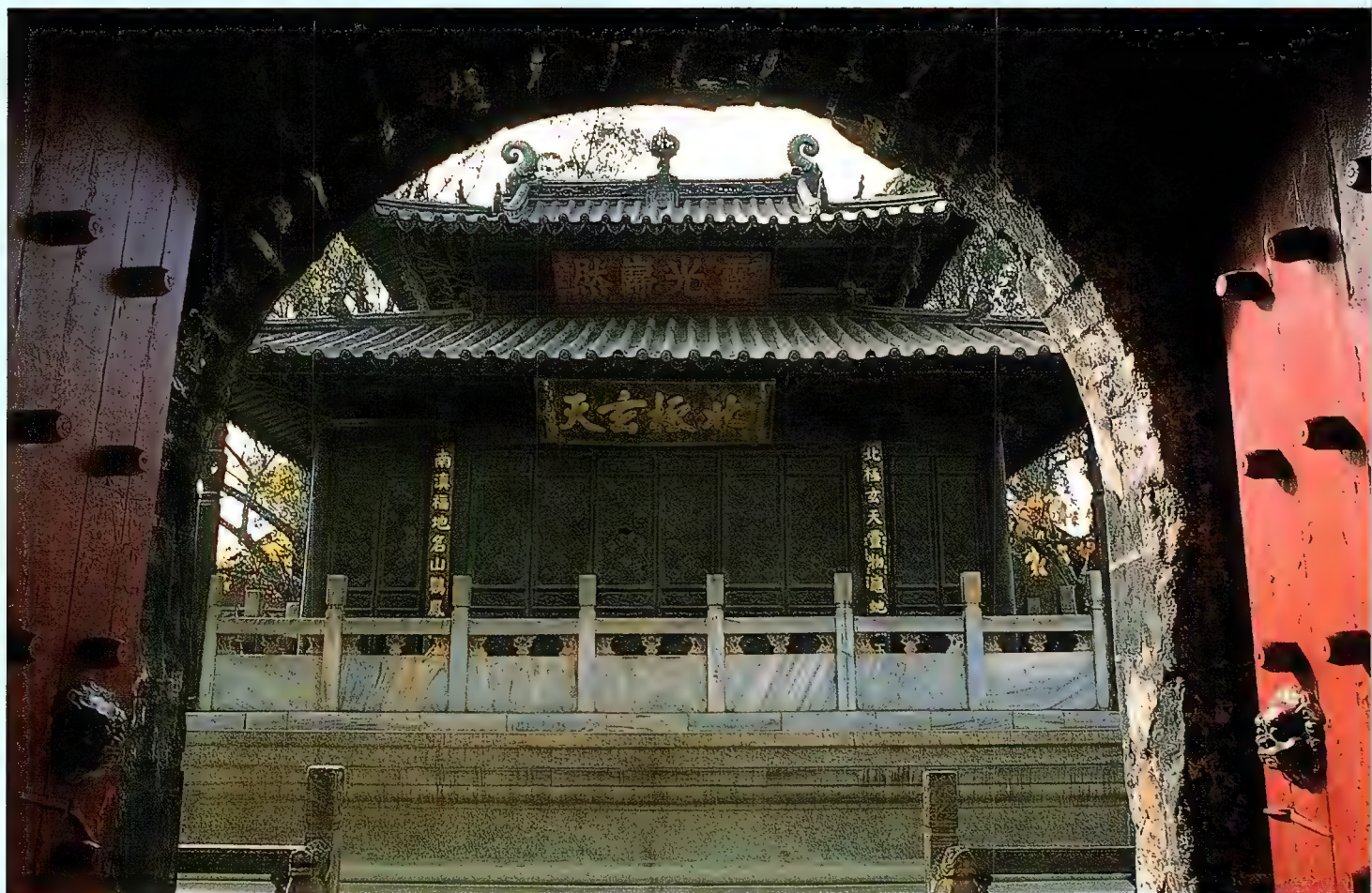
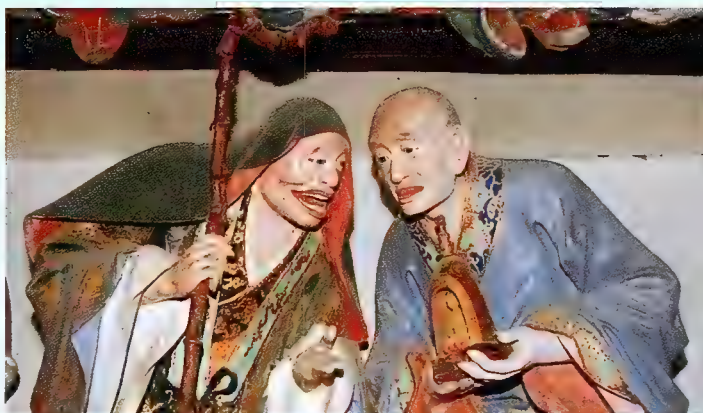
In the Dragon Spring Temple at the Black Dragon Pool is a uniquely shaped bronze incense burner.



The Black Dragon Pool Park boasts ancient trees, dense bamboo groves, quiet and secluded temples and clear mountain springs.



The clay arhat statues in the Giongzhu Temple are masterpieces of the ancient folk art of coloured sculptures in China (by Yang Changfu).



The Golden Palace is the largest bronze building in China.

The Five Hundred Arhats at the Qiongzhu Temple

The architecture of the Qiongzhu (Bamboo) Temple, about ten kilometres west of Kunming, may not leave the visitors with a special impression, but the five hundred coloured clay arhats housed in the temple certainly are memorable.

Located in the quiet and peaceful Yu'an (Jade Board) Mountains, the temple is reached by taking the No. 7 bus from West Bus Station in Kunming. After alighting at Heilinpu, one should go up the hill along the mountain path to the temple, where tall and sturdy pines and cypresses provide shade and mountain creeks gurgle by. Said to be first built during the Dali Kingdom, a local polity which existed from 937 to 1253, the present structure is a reconstruction dating from the reign of Emperor Guangxu (1875-1908) during the late Qing Dynasty. The vividly rendered arhats are from this late date.

It took seven years for Li Guangxiu, a private sculptor from Sichuan, and his three apprentices to complete the work. Resting on three tiers, the five hundred statues, each one metre in height, bearing various expressions and postures indicating happiness, rage, sorrow and anger, are all different from one another. All parts of their bodies are accurately proportioned. They are rare pieces of clay modellings in China.

The Black Dragon Pool

The Heilong (Black Dragon) Pool, at the foot of the Laowu Peak of the Longquan (Dragon Spring) Hill, is located about fourteen kilometres north of the city and can be reached by taking the No. 9 bus at the Chuanxin Tower.

Originally the pool was fed by natural underground springs that spouted water all year round despite severe drought. Now only two small springs separated by a small bridge remain active. Interestingly, the water on one side is clear but on the other is muddy.

Nearby stands the Longquan (Dragon Spring) Temple on the green hill slope. The temple consists of three lofty and magnificent halls that seem to glisten in the sun. The greatest attraction of the Black Dragon Pool area, however, is neither the temple nor the springs. Instead, the rare plants cultivated in the temple complex's courtyards, namely, the Tang Dynasty plum, the cypress of the Song Dynasty, the camellia of the Ming and the magnolia of the Qing, attract more visitors.

The Tang Dynasty plum is said to be originally cultivated by a monk called Dao An during the time when this region was part of the Nanzhao Kingdom. The trunk of this nearly 1,300-year-old plum tree is already dead, but the branches are full of vitality and still bloom every year. The Song Dynasty cypress tree, which is 25 metres tall and whose circumference takes four people with out-stretched arms to circle, has a particular charm in

Days are Numbered for Prosperous Shops on the Streets

The old streets in Kunming have been demolished one by one in recent years as part of the reconstruction of the city. Commemorative buildings such as the city towers and memorial archways no longer exist. Now the busy centres such as Changchun Road, Tuodong Road, Jinbi Road and Shuncheng Street are being demolished section by section as a new city emerges from the rubble. After the old streets have been demolished, the once-concealed little lanes and courtyards are completely exposed.

The old streets which have not yet been demolished still maintain their character, and are filled with crowds of people. The shops along these old streets are prosperous. On Jinbi Road, which is lined with restaurants and bars on either side, business dealers loudly cry to solicit customers from passers-by. The fragrance of Pot-Steamed Chicken, the smell of mutton, the odour of fried dishes and the sting of hot pepper mingle in the air. On Shuncheng Street, flanked by department stores, boutiques sell fashionable dresses. Also on the streets are gift and souvenir shops, groceries, building materials shops, watch repair shops and snack bars. Crowds of people seem to be everywhere.

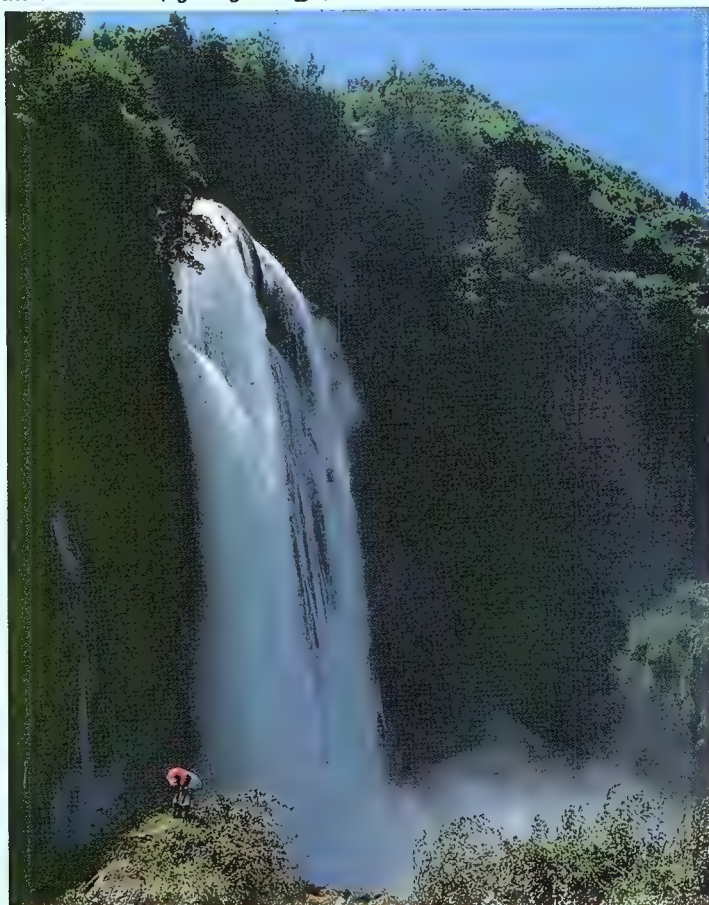
The old houses lining the streets are mostly two-storey buildings. The first floors are usually shops, while the second floors serve as living quarters. The upper parts of the buildings have maintained their old features: wooden walls and tiled roofs. But the shops below have been beautifully refurbished, some showing the fresh veneer of modern times.

Behind the traditional houses and shops along Shuncheng Street, modern high-rise structures are going up.

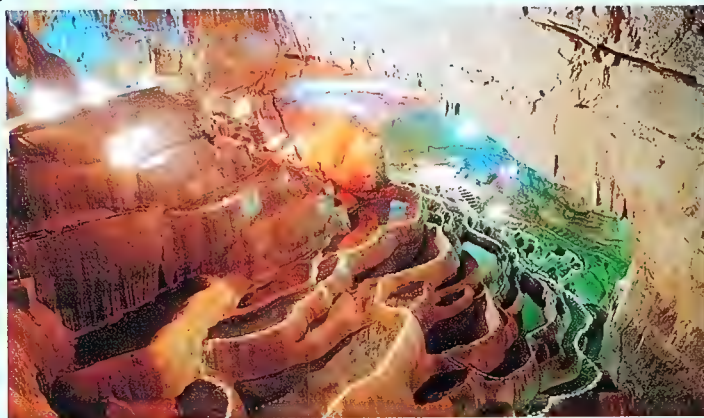


Old marriage traditions are still retained in the ancient streets in Kunming (by Shao Zibo).

Newly discovered Dadieshui Waterfall in Lunan is not quite far away from the Stone Forest (by Yang Changfu).



At Jiuxiang in Yiliang County, a large karst cave houses a thirty-metre high underground waterfall and a stone formation resembling terraced fields naturally created (by Xu Jinyan).



The Stone Forest in Lunan Yi Autonomous County is a marvellous natural karst formation that attracts large numbers of visitors (by Xu Jinyan).



The Alu Cave was discovered a long time ago. Xu Xiake, the great explorer and geographer of the Ming Dynasty, visited it twice (by Liu Jianhua).

virtue of its age and size. The sturdy trunk and branches of the Ming Dynasty camellia hint of the experiences and time the tree has endured. During the flowering season, the branches turn pink, attracting swarms of bees and butterflies, and crowds of viewers as well.

The Stone Forest


No visitor to Kunming will want to miss the Stone Forest an extremely rare geological phenomenon of karst limestone pillars in fantastic shapes spread on a hillside at Lunan Yi Autonomous County, 120 kilometres south-east of the city. There are daily shuttle buses taking tourists to and fro between the city and this great tourist attraction and in addition,, the local travel agencies operate one-day and two-day trips to see this unique scenic wonder. Hotels at the Stone Forest accommodate visitors who want to spend more than one day there to observe more closely and in minute detail the huge densely packed stone pillars.

From the hill above the Stone Forest, the visitor will find stalagmite stones ranging in height from forty to over one hundred metres and in a variety of shapes standing tall under the blue sky. The view changes with the position of the viewer and alternations in the weather and natural lighting. Within the Stone Forest itself, twisting alleys, stone corridors, caves, bridges, terraces, halls and pavilions, all formed by nature, present a labyrinthine maze.

Terraced Fields Inside a Cave

The Alu Cave, eighty kilometres away from the Stone Forest, was visited twice by Xu Xiake, the traveller and geographer of the Ming Dynasty. And he came for a good reason for geologists believe this cave is indeed a rare phenomenon in the world.

Lying close to a highway, the cave is easily accessible. It houses huge stalagmites and stalactites which resemble a variety of objects including halls, animals, birds and other objects. There is also an underground river over eight hundred metres long and visitors can ride a boat into the cave to enjoy the marvellous collection of naturally-formed stone objects. The river is also home to a unique species of fish five to six centimetres in length. If the visitor catches one and inspects the fish, he can see all the organs in the fish's body, because the flesh of the fish is transparent.

Returning to Kunming on the way is a karst cave in Yiliang that has recently been discovered and opened to visitors. Its colourful inside terrain appears to be layer upon layer of terraced fields, only much more neatly laid out than the ones cultivated on mountain slopes by farmers. Not surprisingly, once discovered, the cave immediately captured the attention of cave specialists. 

Translated by Huang Youyi

The Torch Festival

Apart from the Stone Forest, Lunan Yi Autonomous County is also known for Yunnan's largest waterfall, Dadieshui Waterfall, Ziyun (Purple Cloud) Cave and the beautiful Changhu Lake. Though not large in size, the lake has a special natural charm. Also noteworthy, on the eastern bank of the lake the Sanis or Yis, a local ethnic minority, hold their annual Torch Festival, a carnival that lasts several days and nights.

The festival is held every year around the 24th day of the 6th month on the lunar calendar, which usually falls in late July or early August. During the day, there are wrestling contests, horse-racing and bull-fighting. At night, the hill is lit up with torches and young men and women begin singing in search of their future spouses. There are also group dances as people gather around bonfires and, holding torches in their hands, dance the whole night away.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

The bugle announces the start of the singing and dancing at the Torch Festival (by Liu Jianhua).



Unlike the Spanish sport in which the matador fights the bull, bull-fighting on the programme of the festival is a fight between the animals themselves (by Liu Jianhua).



Shanghai "Sea-Gull" Umbrella

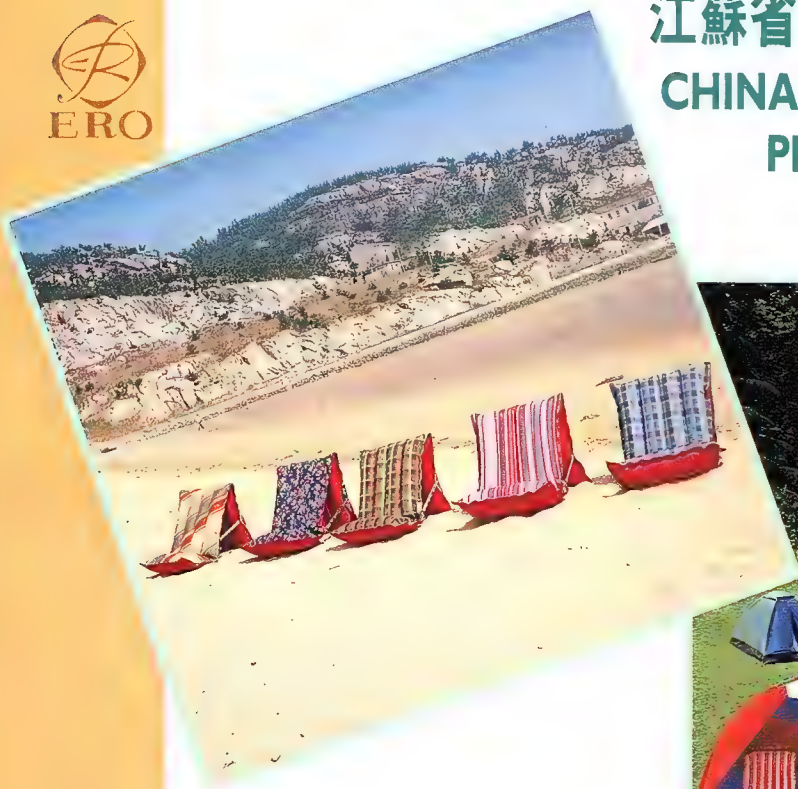


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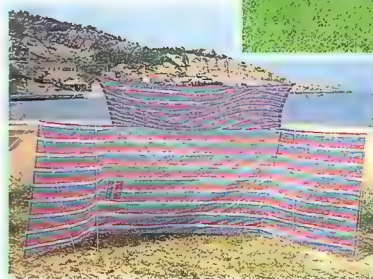


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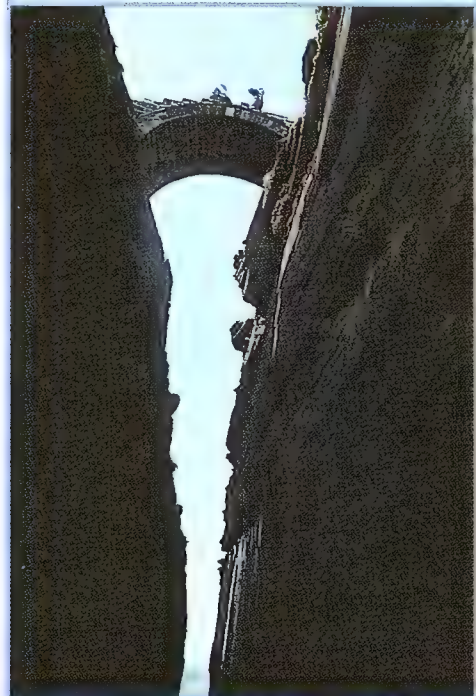
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◀ Strange rock formations with names such as the "Ten Thousand Books" and "Golden Basin and Jade Bowl" seem to be floating in the mist.



▲ The Immortal's Bridge, spanning the Golden Knife Ravine, is the only connection between the peaks of the New and Old Golden Pinnacles (by Er Dongqiang).

Fanjing Mountain, a World of Wonders

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY HUA NIAN



Then the clouds have cleared, the cliff suddenly appears as if by magic (2). Flaming azalea blossoms blanket the sides of mountains and fields (4). Another fascinating sight is provided by clouds hovering over the towering peaks. This picture of Wanbao Rock epitomizes the charm of Fanjing Mountain (3). From the top of New Golden Pinnacle one has a panoramic view of Fanjing Mountain's main peak, Old Golden Pinnacle and Mushroom Rock (1).



Fanjing Mountain, Top of the Wuling Ridge

Fanjing Mountain, rising 2,572 metres above sea level, is located at the north-eastern edge of the Guizhou Plateau. It is the main peak of the Wuling Ridge which lies in the provinces of Guizhou and Hunan. This towering and magnificent mountain has preserved its pristine state. In fact, it is the only primitive land in existence in the area at this latitude.

I boarded a bus at the county seat of Jiangkou and after driving eighteen kilometres I reached the mount of the Heiwan River — the east gate to the Fanjing Mountain. It was ten o'clock in the morning, but there was still fifteen kilometres to go from here to a place called Wanbao Rock, where I would stay for the night.

I found myself a porter, hired him to carry my luggage and the food for a couple of days, and then set off.

To enter the mountain from the mouth of the Heiwan River, there was only one narrow winding trail. After walking for one kilometre, we came to a wide road which was, however, under construction. I saw several bulldozers busy working and churning up loud noises.



During mountain climbing season, it is very difficult to get a room in hostels on Fanjing Mountain. Sometimes one has to make do by sharing a bed with someone else. However, this shortage does not deter people from coming to climb the mountain (4).

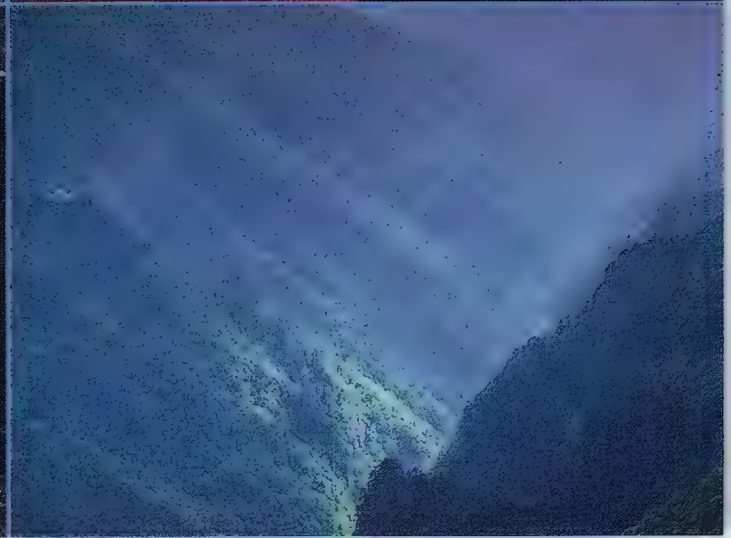
This "thatched hut" is actually an unusual rock formation (2). Another Mushroom Rock standing on a cliff almost seems to be swaying in the wind (6, by Er Dongqiang). The local people gather the shoots of brake (a kind of fern) for dinner (1). For worshipping, there are quite a number of statues like these inside the caves under the "Ten Thousand Books" rock formation (3). The fathomless Niuwei (Ox Tail) River Valley offers tourists yet another magnificent sight (5).

Once this road was completed, cars could bring people right up to the foot of the mountain, which could save eight kilometres of trekking.

It was drizzling, and the road was muddy and slippery as well as being full of stones. After seven kilometres' walk, we came to the site of an abandoned copper ore plant. It was already after noon. The plant is now served as a convenient midway stop. Those who find it too hard to get to the mountaintop in one day may stay here for the night. While here they might go and have a look at a rare plant called *gongtong*, locally known as dove flower. We decided to go to the top that same day; however, having had a simple lunch, we continued our journey.

Seven Thousand Stone Steps

At three o'clock in the afternoon, we reached the end of the road. To link with this road was an almost vertical path of stone steps. From there to Wanbao Rock, there were seven thousand steps all told. The stairway was built on a sixty to seventy degree mountain slope. For each step, one had to raise his knees high. Once one has climbed





or a few dozen steps, one would be short of breath. People had used to describe the difficulties of the climbing with these words: "You will be surprised with delights for 24 times but for nothing." Only after I had expended considerable effort climbing, I began to understand its meaning. Once when I was scaling a flight of steps, I could not see any other steps further ahead, so I presumed there must be some kind of level land presenting easier walking before resuming climbing. But when I reached the top, a new flight of steps was right in front of me. The space between the two stairways was so narrow that it was merely large enough to place my load. My luggage was as heavy as 35 kilograms, and after 3,000 steps, my porter was too exhausted to continue. As I was wondering what to do next, a youth of about sixteen came down. I asked him to help me carry my luggage up the mountain. He agreed and lifted the load. This man was so fast that we found it very difficult to catch up with him. For the next 4,000 steps, he rested only twice, while bearing a heavy burden.

When we got to the Wanbao Rock, it was not yet dark. It had taken altogether seven hours from the Heiwan River which was 490

metres above sea level to the Wanbao Rock, which was about 2,400 metres above sea level. This was my new personal record time!

The Sight of the Buddha's Halo in the Misty Night

It was about half a kilometre from the Wanbao Rock to the New Jinding (Golden Pinnacle). This was one of the rare pieces of level land on the mountain, and it contained two rows of one-storey houses which served as tourist hostels. Those were the only buildings here and could only board a few score of people. So during the mountain climbing season, they were always crowded. After dinner, I wanted to enjoy some night scenery. Unfortunately, mist rose up and soon became so thick that I seemed to be able to touch it with my hand. I began to worry about the next day's weather.

The weather here was changeable and the topography complicated. There were about two hundred days of precipitation annually. Because of the mist and rain, the views of the Fanjing Mountain are more fascinating. In this rainy season of May, the scene of the mountain incessantly kept changing. One might be lucky enough to see the towering peaks, gro-

tesque clouds and myriad flowers all over the place. Then again, one might see nothing but fog and mist.

As I kept an eye on the mist out of the door, I suddenly noticed my own shadow on the mist in front of the door. What was intriguing was that the shadow had a halo surrounding it. This phenomenon might well be the Buddha's halo, I thought. Then I realized that it was the light in the room which cast my shadow on the mist outside. It was indeed a strange sight.

"Ten Thousand Books"

Early in the morning, gusts of wind shook the door and windows. The clatter woke me up, thinking what a favourable augury for the day ahead. So long as there was wind, there was hope for beautiful views. Wind is able to move and shape clouds and create all kinds of scenes.

We set out in a hurry for the New Golden Pinnacle. Soon the Golden Pinnacle emerged in the distance from behind clouds, and around it were some bright colourful hues. It looked not unlike the so-called Buddha's halo. This scene was probably called the "Golden Red Cloud Pinnacle". However, this



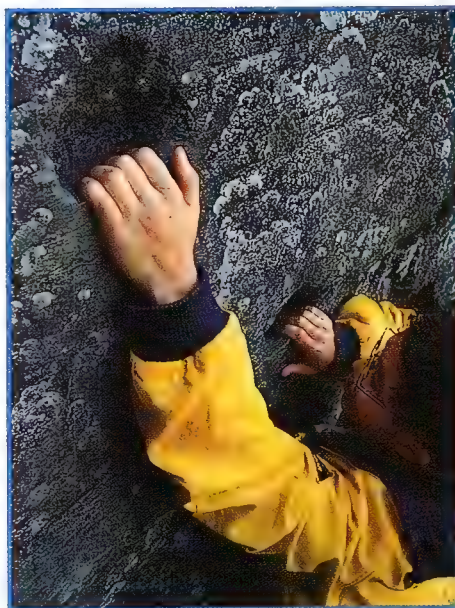
The New Golden Pinnacle looks like a towering pillar. The ancient temple at its summit and the dilapidated temple at its foot make an interesting juxtaposition.



glorious view lasted only for a short moment, for the sunlight was soon covered up by rolling clouds. We continued climbing and passed the foot of the New Golden Pinnacle. Having climbed up a slope, we found ourselves standing at the foot of the Old Golden Pinnacle. Here there was a veritable panorama of sights. The Mushroom Rock, the symbol of Fanjing Mountain, lay at the foot of the cliff of the Old Golden Pinnacle. To the north of this rock, there was the rock formation called "Ten Thousand Books" located halfway up the cliff. This was a stretch of shale whose distinct layers resembled piles of books. A strong gust of wind swept past, and we moved to a cave under these stone volumes. Then we climbed up by stepping on the layers until we were about twenty metres high on the top of one stack.

Magnificence of Changeable Scenes

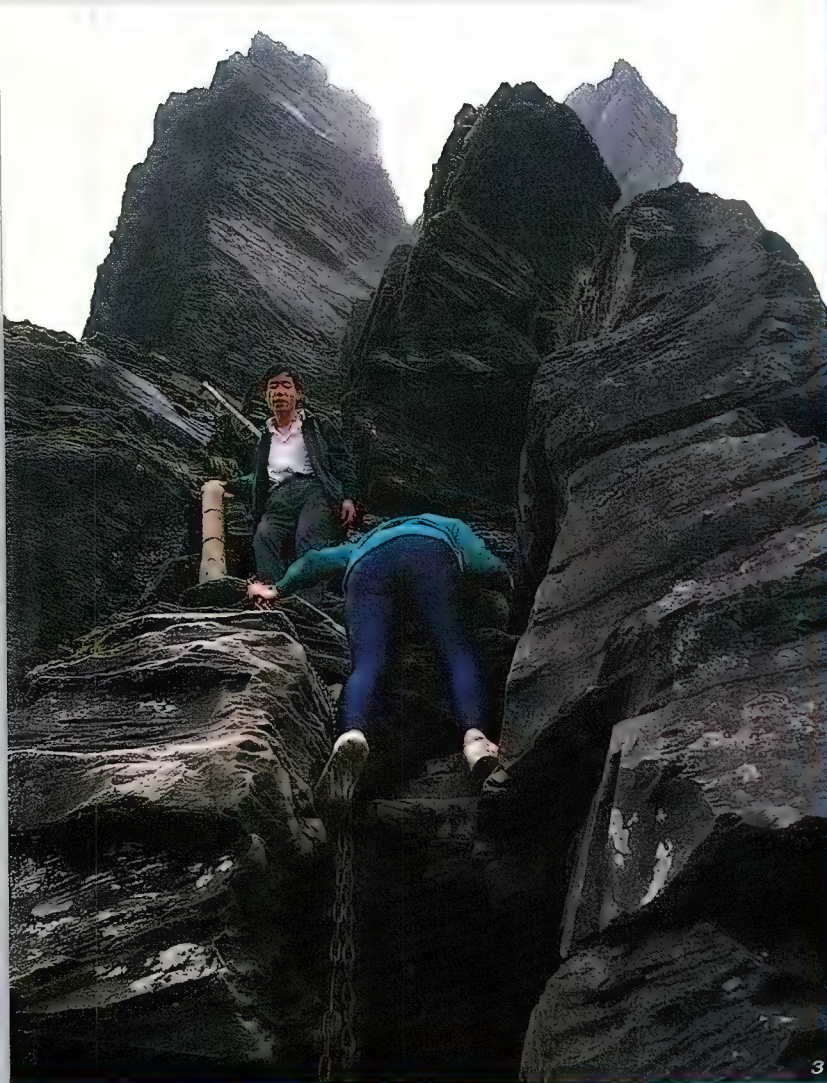
The wind in the mountains blew alternately strong and weak. Standing at the top of the cliff, I observed the changeable scenes of clouds and peaks. Suddenly I caught sight of a solitary peak known as Taizi (Prince) Rock, at which time the clouds suddenly



People slowly and cautiously climb the cliff walls with great care by catching hold of footholds (1, by Er Dongqiang). Once you have scaled this cliff, you find yourself standing on what looks like a stack of "books" (2 & 3). Named Upper Tea Hall and Lower Tea Hall, these two buildings were well-known Buddhist temples during the Ming Dynasty (4).

dispersed revealing myriads of azalea blossoms covering the mountains. Looking in another direction, I saw clouds cascading like torrents of water into the canyon where the Niuwei (Ox Tail) River flowed, providing a rare sight of a cataract of clouds. What made me feel as if I was viewing a fantasy land was the New Golden Pinnacle which sometimes appeared and sometimes disappeared almost in a mysterious fashion. The local people call it the "Rice Steamer" because the whole scene looked like a steaming cooker. Whenever clouds rose, this mountain would be enveloped in them save for the summit and the two temples on it, all of which seemed to be suspended in mid-air. In the fold of the mountain slope, there were ruins of walls of an ancient temple clustered together, which also had a mysterious air about it because of the mist. The original buildings were constructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The structure on the higher elevation was named Cheng'en Temple or Upper Tea Hall while the one beneath it was called Zhenguo Temple, or Lower Tea Hall. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Fanjing Mountain was a sacred Buddhist mountain,





famed as the Emei Mountain. The word "fanjing" can be translated as "the peaceful world of Buddhism". For centuries, Buddhist followers came from Guizhou, Hunan, Hubei, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Guangdong and Guangxi to pay homage to Buddhas here. During its heyday there were 48 temples of various sizes on this mountain alone. Cheng'en and Zhenguo were the two best-known temples.

Unfortunately almost all of these buildings have vanished. Only two structures, namely Sakyamuni Temple and Maitreya Temple, still remain intact.

Climbing Up the New Golden Pinnacle

A hundred metres high, the New Golden Pinnacle looked like a huge candle. It appeared well nigh impossible for a bird to catch a foothold here, let alone human beings. In fact there was a stairway leading to its top. We started climbing from the northern foot of the peak. After a stone tablet inscribed with the phrase "The 7,000th Step", the steps gradually took us to the western side. The slope of the Golden Pinnacle was so steep that we presently could not see its top. Some

footholds and little holes had been chiselled out of the cliff wall for one's hands and feet to catch hold of. For added safety, iron chains were installed on rocks. I put my camera into my bag and scaled with both hands and feet along the cliff like a lizard.

When I reached "Chest Thrusting Out Rock", I squeezed through a cleft in the rock to discover a small level place where one could have a break. My resting place was the bottom of a cleft known as "Golden Knife Ravine". I looked up and found that the pinnacle was actually divided into two peaks. The cleft in between was about twenty metres long and two to three metres wide.

Having at last scaled the Golden Knife Ravine, we stood on the southern side of the pinnacle. However, we had to be even more careful, because the wind was so strong and the top of the pinnacle was only a few score square metres in size. If one was careless, he might be blown off the top.

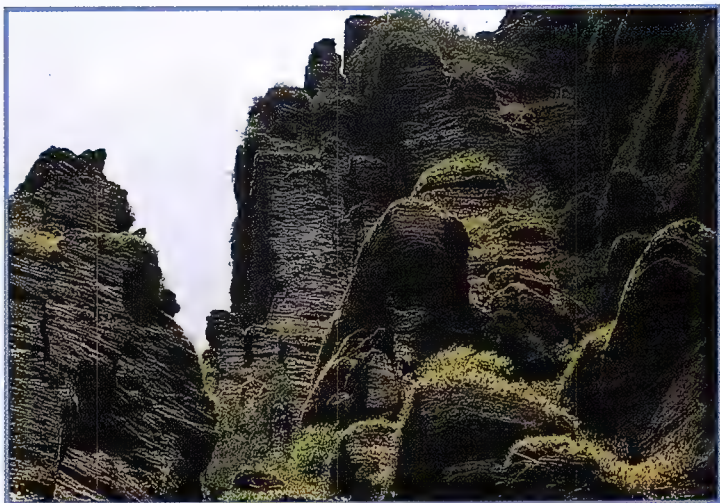
When the wind subsided a bit, we gingerly crossed the cleft over a little wooden bridge named "Immortal's Bridge", and then we arrived at the Sakyamuni Temple on the northern side. It appeared to be the mirror image

of the Maitreya Temple on the southern side. The two temples were the same in architectural style as well as size.

The Phoenix Mountain, the Highest but More Mysterious Peak

The wind souged the whole night through. The next day, the mist had dispersed and the sky was azure blue without a wisp of cloud. So my worries of being unable to go to the Phoenix Mountain due to the mist and rain dispersed too. The Phoenix Mountain, just opposite the Golden Pinnacle, is 2,572 metres above sea level, the highest peak of Fanjing Mountain. It is not as well known, however, as the Golden Pinnacle. Therefore it is regarded as the secondary peak. However, I found it more mysterious and magnificent than any of the other peaks on Fanjing Mountain. Its forests were a lot thicker, and it was the habitat of some rare birds and animals.

Few people have been up to the top of the Phoenix Mountain except for some herb collectors, hunters and scientists. I could not find a guide at the local tourism service agency. Luckily, Mr. Yang, a friend of the



There are many strange rock formations like these on the cliffs of Old Golden Pinnacle.



A magnificent sea of clouds floats below the rocks at the peak (by Shang Yuanhua).



guide, volunteered to take me there though he had been there only once himself. It would take a whole day to get there and back. So we brought some food and drinks with us and set off.

The Nine Dragon Lake, Paradise in the Human World

From the foot of the New Golden Pinnacle we headed south, and soon entered a primeval forest. Before we ventured far, we noticed that there were no longer any road indicators. Hoping first to see the Nine Dragon Lake, we crossed a mountain and trod on towards a valley on the left.

The Nine Dragon Lake refers to nine interlinked mountain lakes on Fanjing Mountain. In summer, their water is very clear, but in winter and spring they turn into marshes.

It was very damp and trees were very thick. Since this area was not often visited by people, it retained its pristine character. The land was covered with thick grass, which felt most comfortable underfoot. Sprinkled throughout the green land were tiny yellow and purple blossoms. Azalea in full bloom sprouted tall not unlike trees. No wonder people said



In a primitive forest like this, there are many rare flowers (1) and nimble Golden-haired Monkeys (3, by Shang Yuanhua). People who are lost in the forest can trace their paths by climbing up a tree (4), most of which are covered with moss (2).

the Nine Dragon Lake was a natural paradise in the human world.

We visited three lakes, one of which was actually a marsh covered with golden coloured moss, which shimmered like a piece of golden velvet in the sunshine.

Lost in a Dark Forest

Since our destination was still far way, we dared not to linger too long. So we hurried onto the mountain ridge. Though it was a fine day, the ground was wet and slippery. We moved gingerly, clutching trees sometimes to help keep balance. But whenever we clambered down a slope, one of us would fall with his back hitting the ground. We walked for four hours in this way, crossing a bamboo grove and three mountains. We were separated now from the Phoenix Mountain only by one peak. But all of a sudden a cliff stood in front of us. We had come to the end of the path! Only then did Mr. Yang realize that he had taken us the wrong way. He asked us to have a rest while he clambered down the cliff to find a way.

It was already one o'clock in the afternoon. We climbed up to the highest vantage





point. While waiting anxiously for further news, we began to have lunch. An hour passed but there was no sign of Mr. Yang. We shouted at top of our voices, but there was no response.

It was no longer a question of advancing to the Phoenix Mountain. The issue now was finding our way back. Looking round, we saw that we were surrounded by endless stretches of trees. The Golden Pinnacle seemed to be far distant. If we could not find the way back before darkness fell, we could well encounter great hardship. First we would have to endure the dark cold night. Then there was not enough food. We could do nothing but cast our lives to fate as we could wait no longer. Deciding to find our way back on our own, we left some water and food for Mr. Yang should he return. Directed by our compasses, we went north on the mountain ridge. From time to time, one of us climbed up a tree to see where the Golden Pinnacle was. Luckily it was a fine day, and visibility was excellent. While reading on, we kept shouting Mr. Yang's name. My shoes were worn out, and my clothes torn. It was about half an hour later, when, much to our relief, we heard Yang's re-

sponse from behind. You can imagine how elated we were to see one another once again. We were at last led to the correct path before it was dark.

When we at last relaxed in the evening, we gave a vivid account of our adventures to some friends. Then we learned that we ought to have initially set off for the Phoenix Mountain from Dewang Village, which lay to the south of the mountain. There was only one access to the top of the mountain, that was from its rear. But we had gone face to face with its cliff wall instead.

At the Top of the Old Golden Pinnacle

Since we were not totally discouraged, we decided to climb the Old Golden Pinnacle, with an altitude of 2,493.4 metres. To climb up to the top of the first peak could more or less compensate for our failure to scale the Phoenix Mountain.

But it was actually more dangerous to climb up the Old Golden Pinnacle than the New Golden Pinnacle. We started from the slope beneath the Jiu Huang Cave and came right up to the cliff. Then we climbed up

along a cleft. But there was no iron chain here. Footholds on the walls were quite far apart. I had to feel the footholds first to make sure they were not slippery or loose. In this cleft, water drops kept falling, and mossy rocks were too slippery to catch hold of. With the experiences learned from climbing the New Golden Pinnacle and the determination to atone for our previous failure, we clambered up quickly and reached the top in half an hour.

Looking down from this peak, I found that all the peaks and rocks around seemed to be transformed. The rock formation commonly known as "Ten Thousand Books" became piles of jigsaws. Even the Mushroom Rock now appeared miniscule. Rows upon rows of green mountains in the distance took on a majestic aura. The Phoenix Mountain, New Golden Pinnacle and the first peak under my feet seemed to tower even higher. The Phoenix Mountain was still half-wrapped in clouds. When would its mysterious veil be uncovered? My dream of discovering what it looked like could well entice me to return in the future.



Translated by Wang Mingjie





◀ Terraced fields on the bank of the Taiping River shed off the yellow colour and turned light green. Rapeseed is harvested.



▲ This little girl has inherited the culinary tradition of eating hot food. She heartily enjoys shreds of rice curd dipped in chilli sauce.

A Visit to Peaceful Jiangkou County

PHOTOS & TEXT BY
CHAN YAT NIN



A pure wooden bridge built with indigenous technique. The structure of its cross-shaped girders is unique (by Liao Jiangsheng).



What will later become the delicious dried bean curds are being dried in the sun in Jiangkou County.

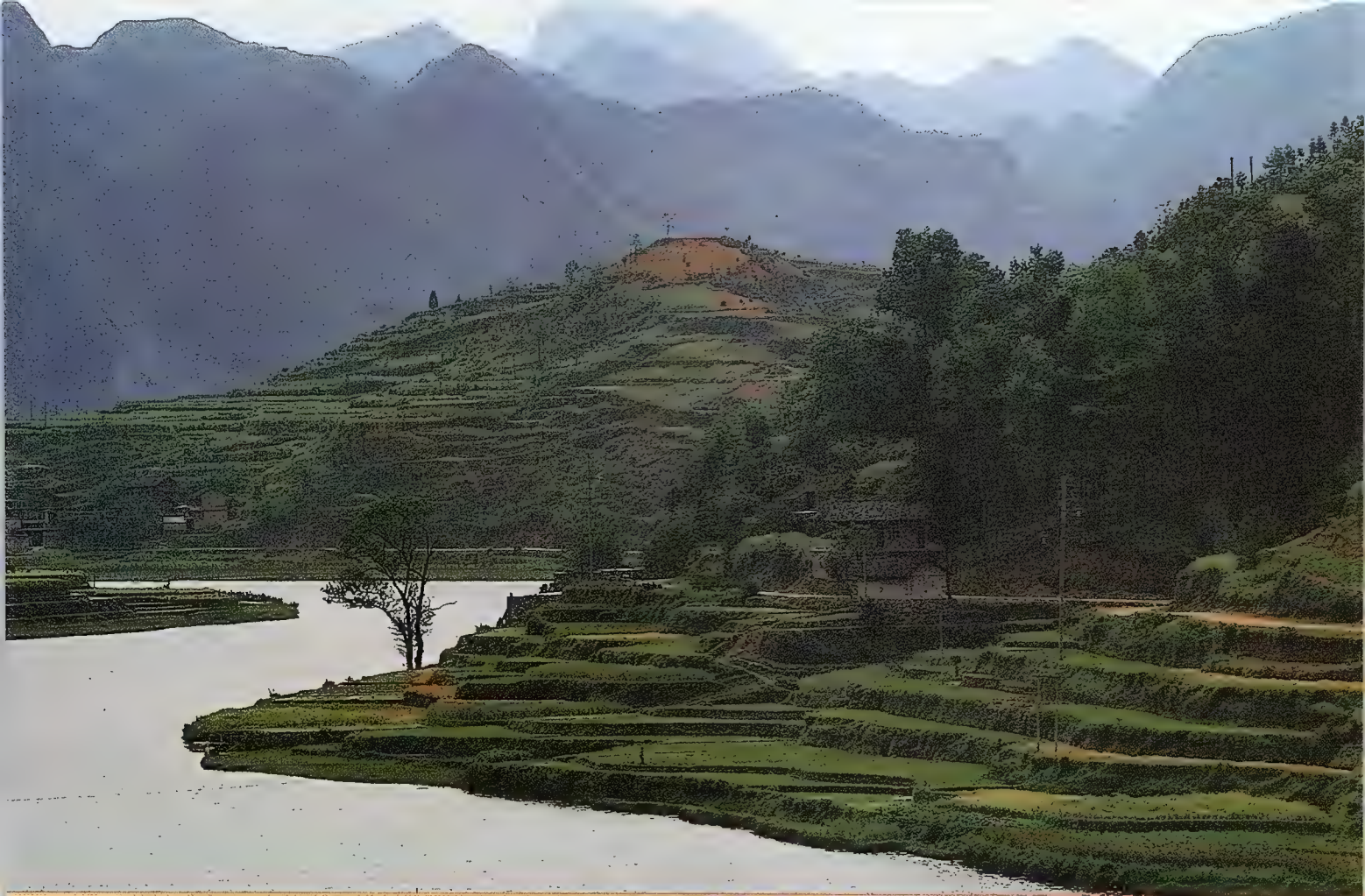
Jiangkou County is located at the foot of Fanjing Mountain and on the northern bank of the Jinjiang River in northeastern Guizhou Province. The county is under the jurisdiction of Tongren Prefecture.

Scenery here is picturesque, thanks to Fanjing Mountain and several clear rivers flowing down from the mountain. So blue and transparent are the river waters that even during the spring rainy season, they are not yellowish and turbid. The river waters bring verdure and vitality to this mountainous, highland county and also provide its character as a riverside country.

Riverside Villages in a Mountainous Area

The course of the rivers seems to alternate between placid waters and rapid torrents. On either bank are rows of willow trees. Trees, isolated or clustered together, also grow in the water. Ducks leisurely swim in the rippling rivers while amidst them sail elongated fishing boats shaped like leaves of willow trees with fishermen busily plying their trade.

In the afternoon, the rivers are bustling with activities. After school, students, all naked, jump into the clear, blue water, splashing up white foam as they play



Jiangkou County is picturesque thanks to Fanjing Mountain and numerous rivers.

about. Wearing bamboo hats as big as umbrellas, fishermen are angling quietly, in contrast to local women who are beating and washing clothes with wooden hammers. Ferries shuttle across the rivers, carrying passengers without any charge.

At some places there are bridges, constructed of wood employing an indigenous technique. There are also water wheels and water mills squeaking as they ceaselessly churn.

Baskets with Dried Bean curds Resembling Mat-Awnings

The Jiangkou county seat is not a large town. Most of the houses along the streets are built of wooden planks. Some incline to one side because with such a long history they have settled. The inhabitants dwell here contentedly.

On sunny days, one can see strings of dried noodles under the eaves of these houses. In addition, under the eaves of some households giant flat-bottomed bamboo baskets are hung, on which are aired thin pieces of

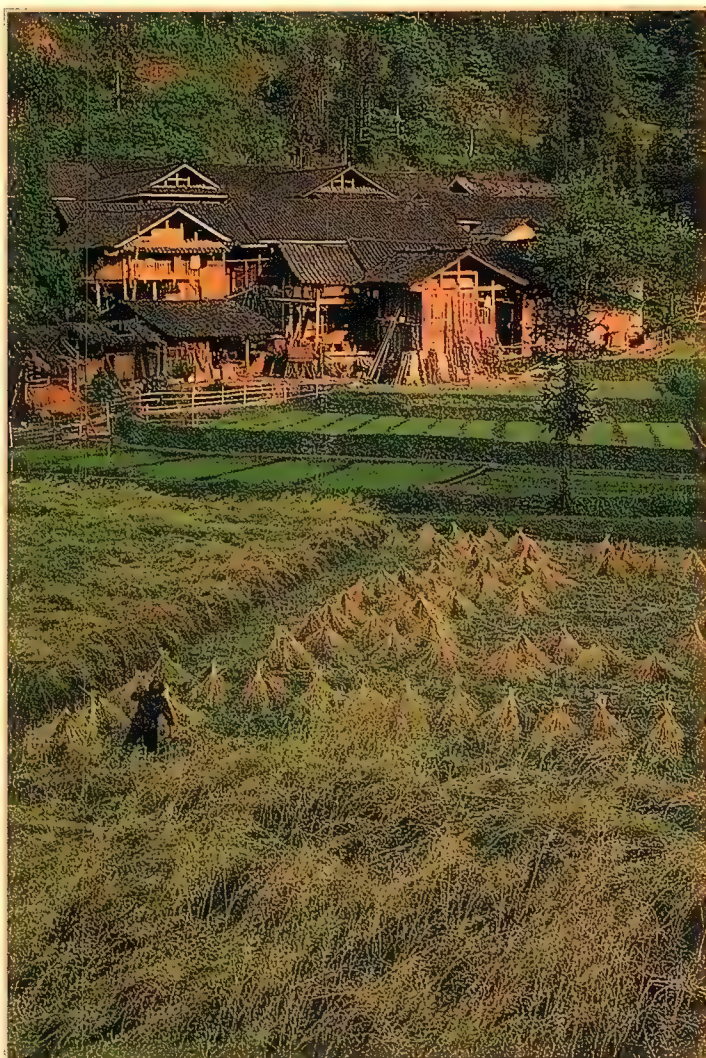


The pottery workshop of Jiangkou County produces pottery wares for daily use.



The bench has a brazier inside. It serves as a heater in winter around which the whole family sit to get warm.

Where there are no bridges and no volunteer ferries people carry others on the back and wade across the river at shallow places. This reflects kinship and friendship between them.



In Tujia villages, spacious wooden stilted cottages and green fields present a scene of pastoral tranquillity.

dried bean curds. At a casual glance they look like mat-awnings to shelter the houses from sunshine.

I was invited into a house. There I saw a hand-operated grindstone and a big pot in which those dried bean curds were created.

The bench I sat on particularly interested me. It was made of four wooden planks, forming a veritable square wooden box with a brazier inside. The locals called it a "fire box". In winter the whole family would sit around it, chatting and warming themselves.

Tujia People Sleep with Door Open

Whenever I go up or down the mountain, I always pass by the Taiping Township where the Tujias and Miaos live. In all the villages, there are either wooden stilted houses or single-storey houses. They are spacious and open. I noticed that all the halls in the centre of the house were just an opening without a door. Only the wings and rear rooms had doors. In a sense, it can be said that the people here leave their houses open at night.

I entered a hall without knocking as there was no door. The host is of the Tujia nationality. He specially



The Tujia people lead a leisurely and contented life of farming.

entertained me with food that was not hot. It is not easy to find such food as the local people are very fond of eating hot food. While still at the fair, I discovered that all the snacks sold there tasted hot. Small strings of spiced, dried bean curds were flavoured with chilli; big sheets of vermicelli were eaten with chilli wrapped in them. Even the so-called "rice bean curds", bowl-shaped cakes made of rice flour which are a favourite with children, are seasoned with chilli sauce.

Because very few visitors came to the village my host wanted to hold a campfire party for me. Fellow villagers were summoned, campfires started and gongs and drums were beaten. Men and women, young and old, gathered around campfires. They danced the traditional Tujia dance of swinging hands. Their movements were simple and energetic, and directly expressed their emotions. Though I could not understand the words of their songs, one thing I could comprehend was that their cordiality was as warm as the blazing campfires.



Translated by Anne Yan



The movements of this Tujia's Swinging Hand Dance are inspired by their ancestors' hunting, farming and living habits.



This man carrying a pig which weighs scores of kilos on his back walks along mountain trails with ease.

A Guide to Fanjing Mountain

TEXT BY LIAO JIANGSHENG

There are three principal routes that one can take to reach Fanjing Mountain in Guizhou Province. The first route is by train. One can board the train in Huaihua in Hunan or in Guiyang in Guizhou and proceed to Yuping, where one must change to a bus and then go on to Jiangkou County Town via Tongren. From Jiangkou, one can then go further north to the mouth of the Heiwan River and ascend the mountain from the eastern slope. The second route is entirely by bus. One can board the bus in Zunyi in Guizhou and go to Yinjiang via Sinan and then proceed to Zhangjiaba, from where one can climb the mountain from the western side. The third alternative is also by bus. After boarding the bus in Yinjiang, one goes to Muhuang Town from where one can scale the northern slope of the mountain. Of the three routes, the first has only been recently opened up and the road leading to the mountain has been broadened. At the mouth of the Heiwan River are the Fanjing Mountain Villa, the Jinjiang Hotel — the China Travel Service Guesthouse, and the Mount Fanjing Nature Conservation Department Guesthouse. Many other accommodation facilities have also been established along the way. It is more convenient to ascend the mountain by the first route. This article, therefore, will mainly introduce the sights and places of interest on the eastern slope.

After boarding the bus at Jiangkou and heading north for one hour to the mouth of the Heiwan River at the foot of Fanjing Mountain, one can alight and walk along the Heiwan River Valley towards Fanjing Mountain. Along the way, one can see the clear unpolluted water of the river running through the mountains. The water is so pure and clean, it is suitable for drinking at any place. After crossing the river on Junzike Bridge, one reaches the Daheiwan Waterfall, where it is very cool. Even in the hottest days of summer, the heat dissipates instantly when one approaches the waterfall. Below the waterfall is a pool of water so clear that its bottom can be easily seen. After one proceeds for another kilometre or so a forest of dove trees will come into view. In May of each year these trees are covered with large white flowers resembling doves, hence the name. At Tongkuangchang (Copper Ore Plant), one can stop for refreshments, eat and refill bottles with drinking water at the boarding and lodging station. From here one can also gain a

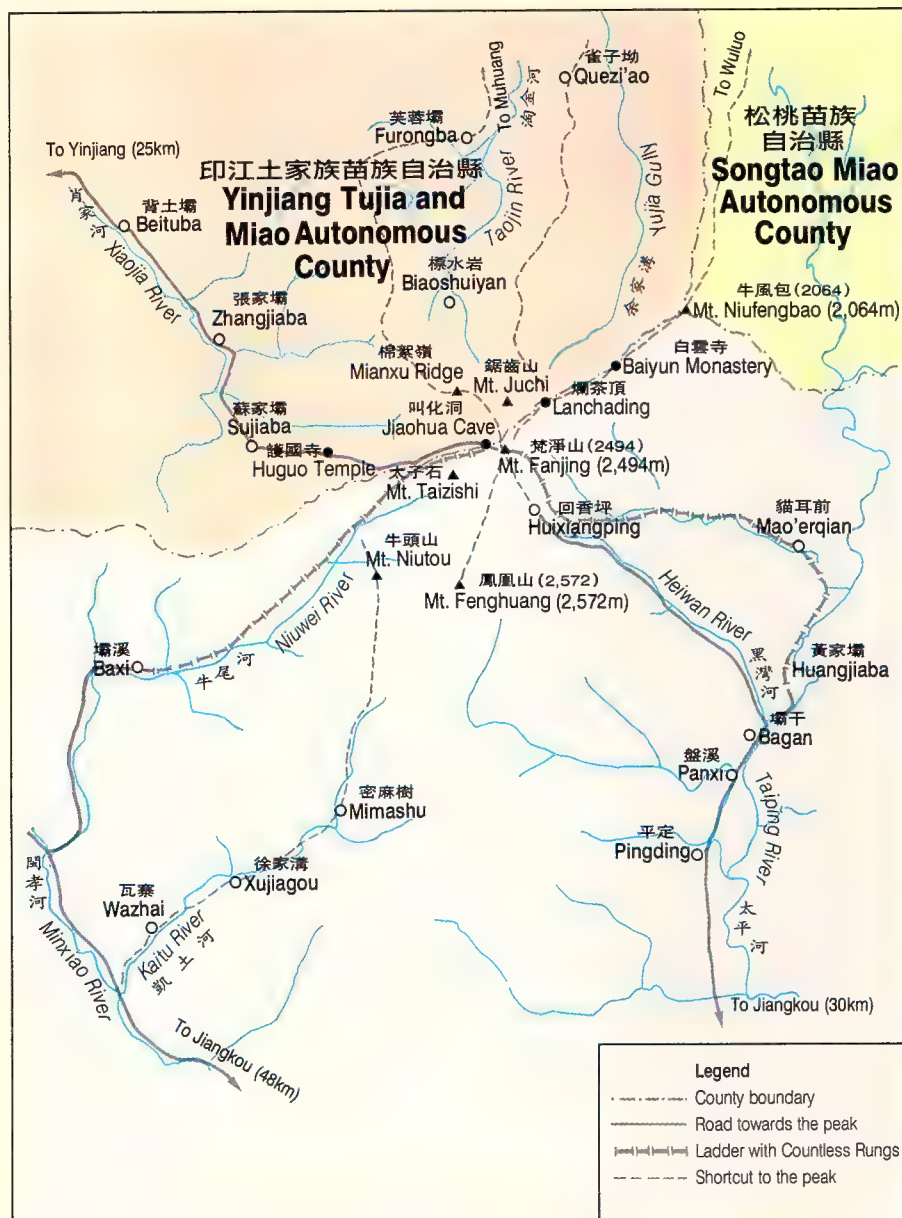
view of the magnificent Golden Pinnacle and the Altar to Worship the Buddha in the distance. Continue for another two kilometres to arrive at the flight of stone steps known as the "Ten-Thousand-Step Ladder", leaving the river valley below to start the ascent of the mountain. At the top of these steps is a col, from where one enters a long corridor of more than 7,500 steep rock steps along the mountain ridge in the primeval forest.

After three hours of climbing, one finally reaches the top of the mountain. For added convenience one can stay the night at the Wanbaoyan Board and Lodging Station and wait until the next morning to climb the Golden Pinnacle, watch the sun gloriously rising above the sea of clouds and enjoy the bizarre peaks and rocks of Fanjing Mountain.

Golden Pinnacle

Fanjing Mountain has two Golden Pinnacles — one old and one new. The one tourists

usually visit is the new one, which is called the "Golden Red Cloud Pinnacle", a sheer rock peak over eighty metres high. Visitors reach it by pulling themselves up the iron chains hanging from the steep flights of stairs chiselled out of the mountain rock. In the middle of the peak is a ravine a dozen metres deep, called the "Golden Knife Ravine" which looks as if it were carved with a knife. Two temples, the Sakyamuni Temple and the Maitreya Temple stand on either side of the peak. An arched stone bridge over the ravine connects the two parts of the peak. Legend has it that once Sakyamuni and Maitreya fought for the Golden Pinnacle as a place to cultivate character. Just as they were locked in a stalemate, the Jade Emperor came down to arbitrate the dispute. He pulled out his gold sword and carved the peak into two parts with each Buddha assigned one. Behind each of the two temples is a huge rock several metres high, the top of which is flat and can hold



dozen people. These two huge rocks are called the "Drying Scriptures Platform" and the "Explaining Scriptures Platform" respectively. Later, the Buddhas decided that it was not right to be separated, so they built a bridge over the deep ravine. The bridge became known as the "Immortal's Bridge". At sunrise and sunset mist rises to envelop the mountain peak. Viewed from a distance during this time of day, the Golden Pinnacle is often shrouded in rosy clouds and the rocks glisten with golden rays under the sunshine. Therefore, the Golden Pinnacle is also known as "The Golden Red Cloud Pinnacle".

Taizi (Prince) Rock

Located in the Niuwei (Ox Tail) River Valley, this rock is a huge pillar with sheer cliffs on four sides and a single tree on top. Legend has it that during the Ming Dynasty Empress Li, accompanied by her brother, came to practise Buddhism at Fanjing Mountain.

Transportation

By air
Direct flights every Monday and Friday from Hong Kong to Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province.
Daily flight from Guangzhou to Guiyang.

By bus

Bus Schedules Yuping → Mt. Fanjing

Route	Distance (km)	Frequency	Tariff (¥)
Yuping—Tongren	80	Any time	6.00
Tongren—Jiangkou	49	20/day	3.00
Mt. Fanjing—Jiangkou	32	16/day	3.00

Temperature

Average Temperature (°C) on Mt. Fanjing

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
70m windward slope (Jiangkou)	5.1	6.0	10.7	16.0	21.1	24.0	26.3	22.9	17.2	11.8	7.0	
Peak (2400m)	-3.1	-2.6	1.1	5.9	10.0	12.9	15.0	14.9	11.8	6.1	2.6	-2.1
56m leeward slope (Yinjiang)	5.6	6.8	11.5	16.8	21.5	24.2	27.4	23.2	17.6	12.5	7.4	

Various Festive Activities of Ethnic Peoples in Guizhou Province

Name	Date		Minority Nationality	No. of Participants	Venue	Activities
	Gregorian Calendar (1993)	Lunar Calendar				
Sanyuesan	March 25	3rd day of 3rd month	Dong, Miao	10,000	Zhenyuan	Lusheng dance, singing in antiphonal style, Taolanzi (young couples' engagement)
Sisters' Meal	April 4-8	15-17th days of the 3rd month	Miao	30,000	Taijiang, Shidong	Lusheng dance, climbing up the slopes, Youtang (singing in antiphonal style by young men and ladies)
Lusheng Gathering	April 15	24th day of the 3rd month	Miao	10,000	Leishan	Beating bronze drums, Lusheng dance, Taohuadai (young people courting)
Siyueba	May 28	8th day of the 4th month	Miao	30,000	Guiyang	Lusheng blowing
Siyueba	May 28	8th day of the 4th month	Miao	15,000	Feiyun Cave in Huangping	Lusheng blowing, bird-fighting, horse-racing

tain. Her son, the prince, could not bear to be separated from his mother and trailed along after her to the Ox Tail River Valley. Afraid that the prince might affect the empress' practice, her brother used his magic powers and located him in the valley. The prince pledged that within three years he would grow as tall as the Golden Pinnacle so that he could see his mother on the mountain every day. In one year he grew very fast and became very tall. Seeing this, his uncle gave him a magical pat on the head and planted a bodhi tree on it. The prince changed into a rock pillar and remained alone in the river valley. Hence the name "Prince Rock".

The Rock of Ten Thousand Books

This cliff is formed from shale arranged in layers so that it looks rather like countless volumes of books piled on top of each other. There is a legend surrounding it, which goes as follows. When pilgrims came here to pay

By train

Train Schedules Huaihua → Yuping

Train No.	Route	Arrival (Yuping Station)
53/56 Exp.	Guangzhou—Chengdu	17:28
61 Exp.	Beijing—Kunming	22:23
71/74 Exp.	Shanghai—Chongqing	03:12
149 F.T.	Beijing—Guiyang	12:20
151 F.T.	Shanghai—Guiyang	01:57

Train Schedules Guiyang → Yuping

Train No.	Route	Arrival (Yuping Station)
55/51 Exp.	Chengdu—Guangzhou	13:07
62 Exp.	Kunming—Beijing	10:02
73/72 Exp.	Chongqing—Shanghai	03:59
150 F.T.	Guiyang—Beijing	00:01
152 F.T.	Guiyang—Shanghai	13:57

Exp. — Express
F.T. — Fast through passenger train

homage, the image of Empress Li's brother appeared on the cliff. People whose family members had a head or a stomach malady pricked the image with a needle on the corresponding part of the body, and the sick person's pain went away instantly and he soon recovered. This method was said to be very efficacious, so more and more people came here to be cured. Unable to bear the constant pricking, the image vanished from the cliff and did not appear as often. Nowadays, if anyone happens to see the image, he would be most fortunate.

The Golden Basin and Jade Bowl Rock

Located at the foot of the Rock of Ten Thousand Books and beside the Nine Emperors' Cave, this huge upright rock is over ten metres high. On the top of the rock is a basin-shaped stone, wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, which can hold several people at a time. The stone appropriately is known as the "Golden Basin". Beneath the stone there is a small round pool known as the "Jade Bowl". Together, these are said to have been used by Empress Li when she practised Buddhism on the mountain.

The Mushroom Rock

This is an inaccessible upright rock over ten metres high, on the top of which is a huge tilted stone. The lower part of the stone is so thin that it looks as if it might collapse at any moment. As it is in the shape of a mushroom, it has been dubbed the "Mushroom Rock". This rock is one of Fanjing Mountain's natural wonders.

At Fanjing Mountain, there are many other strange rock formations and interesting sights such as Eagle Beak Cliff, Scissors Gorge, the Rock Pillar Propping up the Sky and the Nine Dragons Pool.

Fanjing Mountain is an excellent place to tour in all seasons. In spring, alpine azalea and wild flowers bloom colourfully all over the mountains; in summer the mountains are covered with green trees and it becomes a summer resort; in autumn it is a sea of red leaves, and in winter the strangely-shaped peaks and rocks are covered with snow and the trees are decorated with icicles. No matter what the season, an unforgettable impression is what lies in store.

After touring Fanjing Mountain for three or four days, one can go down the mountain and lodge at the Mount Fanjing Hotel run by the County Tourism Company. Or if one is on a tight schedule, hasten to Tongren and stay the night at the Jinjiang Hotel or the Yinhe Hotel. The next day one can board the bus to Yuping and then go on to the next stop on their itinerary.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

雲南省醫藥保健品進出口公司

YUNNAN MEDICINES & HEALTH PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION



經營範圍：

一、生藥類：田七，人

參，當歸，天麻，半
夏，黨參，木香，茯
苓，冬蟲夏草，吳
芋等。

二、成藥類：

1. 中成藥：雲南白藥，白藥水，

白藥膏，女金丹，青葉胆片，天麻祛風補片等。

2. 保健品：生、熟田七粉，生、熟田七片，田七
生切片，田七精膠丸，田七鷄精，田七花精，去濕茶

精，雲南田七花粉口服
液，虎骨酒，天麻補
酒，特製田七酒等。

三、西藥原料類：肝
素鈉，土霉素，
四環素等。

四、醫用輔料類：醫
用乳膠手套等。



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Patent Medicines :

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The White Swan Hotel in Guangzhou

— A Truly Elegant Experience

TEXT BY PENG ZHENG

The White Swan Hotel stands majestically on the southwestern side of Shamian Island in Guangzhou. Looking out from the hotel, one has a splendid view of the Zhujiang (Pearl River). However instead of white swans, what one sees hovering above the ships on the river are sea gulls.

Construction of this five-star hotel started at the beginning of 1979. In the last ten years, since its opening on February 6, 1983, it has hosted several million foreign and domestic guests. The Consulate General of the United States of America and a group of foreign enterprises which intend to make investments in Guangzhou have their offices here.

Those who have visited the White Swan Hotel will be particularly impressed by the lobby, which looks like a three-dimensional landscape painting. To the west of the lobby is a rockery, on top of which stands a pavilion with a gilded roof. A three-metre-wide waterfall by the pavilion rushes down into a pool seven metres below, where a school of golden fish flicker into view amidst the splashing water.

Standing on the curved bridge spanning the pool, one can see the banks around the pool littered with luxurious tropical plants, trees and green bamboo. Looking up, one sees the sunshine filtering down through the glass roof, making the room look like a crystal palace. If you want to enjoy Western cuisine or afternoon tea and snacks, try the opulent Western restaurant or café in the southern section of the lobby. The splashing sound of the water and the music of the piano complement one another nicely, enhancing the eclectic style evidenced by the Chinese landscape garden and the Western architectural decor.

Both the restaurant and the café have a glass wall with a view of the river below. It is a



The design of the lobby is an elegant combination of Eastern and Western styles. The garden at the centre of the lobby looks like a three-dimensional Chinese landscape painting (by Peng Zhenge).



Guests in the dining halls, café and singing hall of the hotel can enjoy watching the boats and ships coming and going on the Pearl River (by Peng Zheng).

A Brief Introduction to the White Swan Hotel

The White Swan Hotel was opened to the public on February 6, 1983. Three years later it was accepted as a member of the Organization of World First Class Hotels. In 1990, it was ranked as one of the first 5-star hotels in China.

The hotel is located on Shamian Island, an island in downtown Guangzhou. An exclusive overpass 635 metres long links up the hotel with the centre of the city, thus it is convenient to go to the airport or the railway station.

Nine dining halls are scattered from the first to the third floors and in the garden by the river. The versatile Hongtufu International Banquet Hall can seat 500 people. Installed with a six-channel system of simultaneous interpretation and stage lighting, it can host international meetings, large cocktail parties and other activities.

The main building of the hotel has 843 rooms and suites of different sizes. Beautifully decorated and installed with modern facilities, the business centre offers convenient and favourable services to the guests and business people.

The hotel has a variety of excellent health and recreational facilities. There are two outdoor swimming pools, ten tennis courses, a golf exercise ground, a gymnasium, beauty salons, sauna baths and a music hall.

The White Swan Hotel, erected on the banks of the Pearl River



The versatile Hongtufu International Banquet Hall

The White Swan Hotel's apartment complex

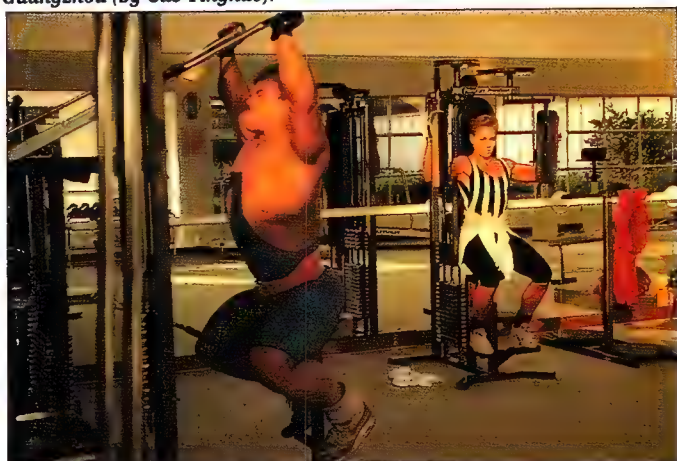


The Presidential Suite

Fashion shows and song and dance performances are often held in the versatile Hongtufu International Banquet hall (by Cao Yinghao).



Men and women belonging to the world body-building elite stayed here and exercised in the gymnasium when they came to perform in Guangzhou (by Cao Yinghao).



Large-scale cocktail parties and other outdoor activities can be held in the garden by the river to the west of the main building (by Cao Yinghao).



This bride has come to have a facial in the hotel's beauty salon before she leaves for her wedding (by Cao Yinghao).



The tasteful dishes at morning tea attract a great number of guests and local residents (by Peng Zhengge).

truly enjoyable way to pass the time, sitting in the café and looking out over the river water flowing downstream.

Guangzhou is located to the north of the Zhujiang Delta where the Beijiang, Xijiang and the Dongjiang converge. Of all the luxurious venues along the Pearl River, the White Swan Hotel is perhaps the best.


The waterfall in the lobby makes a lovely complement to the Zhujiang flowing past outside. The three big characters engraved on the rockery read "Hometown Water", indicating its place of origin.

The design of the White Swan Hotel has earned the national Gold Medal for Architectural Design. Why does it merit this honour then? The architect She Junnan, who presided over the design of the White Swan Hotel, said: "The idea behind our oriental design is to lay emphasis not only on what is visible, but also on the imagination, thus arousing the corresponding feelings of people when they look at the settings created."

Before 1983, tourist hotels on the mainland were not opened to domestic guests. The White Swan Hotel was the first to obtain permission to serve Chinese citizens. Other high-class hotels soon followed suit. As the news spread, visitors from every corner of the country swarmed to the White Swan and

other high-ranking hotels for a visit. In addition to the White Swan Hotel, the Dongfang Hotel, the China Hotel and the Garden Hotel became simply tourist sites, visited by thousands of people every day. This tourist influx died out only when the tourist hotels in all big cities opened their doors to domestic visitors.

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain once attended a welcoming banquet and reception held in the Hongtufu International Banquet Hall of the hotel. The set of dishes produced by the hotel's kitchen in honour of the queen attracted a great number of guests and gourmets.

In recent years, the inhabitants of Guangzhou have come here to have morning tea or drink coffee. In addition, more and more people hold banquets here, purchase fashionable clothes in the hotel's arcade or attend song and dance performances. What makes the hotel even more attractive is that its transportation services are quite good. The taxi service team of the hotel employs more than 200 deluxe vehicles, among them several Rolls Royces. Nearly every day the inhabitants of Guangzhou hire Rolls Royces for their weddings, some even hiring several taxis to form a procession to parade through the city.  **Translated by Gu Weizhou**

Apart from the tourists who flock to the hotel, heads of states and famous personages from over 30 countries have stayed here, including Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, the Prince of the Netherlands, the chairman of the International Monetary Fund, the chairman of the Board of the Washington Post, the chairman of the International Olympic Federation and others.

Former U.S. president Richard M. Nixon wrote down his impression of the hotel: "I have stayed at the presidential suites of many hotels all around the world. I think, however, none of them are comparable to that of the White Swan Hotel."



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain was invited to attend the grand reception banquet held at the White Swan Hotel. Afterwards, a great number of guests came here to enjoy the set of dishes especially produced for the queen.

Former U.S. President George Bush once stayed at the White Swan Hotel. He and his wife were invited to take photos with the hotel's service personnel.



From "Little Guangzhou" to "Little Shenzhen"

— A Visit to Wuzhou and Cenxi in Guangxi

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY HUA NIAN

With the Xijiang River nearby, Wuzhou City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region has been an important water passage-way since ancient times, making it possible for Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan to be linked up with places in Guangdong Province, Hong Kong, Macau and overseas trading ports. Its soubriquets "little Guangzhou" and "little Hong Kong" suggest its comparative prosperity via-à-vis the rest of southwest China.

Nostalgic Sentiment Everywhere in "Little Guangzhou"

From Hong Kong, it took me less than ten hours to reach the north bank of the Xijiang River in Wuzhou City by a fast boat. Roaming around Wuzhou City, I found surprisingly that streets here resemble some of the streets in old Guangzhou City, with some buildings of both Chinese and foreign architectural styles looking like those of Xiguan in Guangzhou.





The city proper of Wuzhou, ancient but magnificent, in some respects resembles old Guangzhou City, explaining why Wuzhou has earned the nickname "Little Guangzhou".



The pier of the Xijiang River bustling in the early morning, as the sounds of ship sirens echo one after another.

The five-kilometre-long embankment, which links the north bank of the Xijiang River and the east bank of the Guijiang River, seems reminiscent of the one in Guangzhou. Passing by the Xinxi Hotel, which has the longest history of any hotel in Wuzhou City, I noticed that its appearance looks just like the hotel at Xidi in Guangzhou.

There are many restaurants here on the streets and you may discover that either the facade of a restaurant or the variety of the cuisine, or even the manner of attracting customers, has similarities with restaurants in Guangzhou and Hong Kong. However, these establishments are not merely reproductions of Guangzhou and Hong Kong restaurants. Typical local dishes served here have their own striking characteristics, with mouth-watering snake, various kinds of wild-fowl and

multifarious stewed foods in particular being offered.

Having supper at one of the big food stalls serving local Wuzhou food is rather fun. When I was full and had finished eating, I heard a ringing sound, signalling that the horse-drawn carriage was waiting for me. I was escorted to the carriage by a solicitous groom. Taking a carriage ride is enjoyable as well as a means of getting around. To the clatter of horse hoofs, I was shown half of the town and returned to the hotel.

A Water Passageway Famous in Southwest China

The Wuzhou Hotel, at which I stayed, stands by the bank of the Xijiang River and is currently the highest building in Wuzhou City. The next morning, shrouded in the morning



Tasting the delicious local dishes in the "Food Street" at night one can appreciate local flavour.



Taking a carriage ride to get around Wuzhou City is really good fun.



Going up to the roof garden on top of the newly-constructed Wuzhou Hotel, one can gain a panoramic view of the whole city.

mist, I went up to the roof garden on top of the hotel to get a bird's-eye view of the city. At that moment, the sounds of ship sirens, breaking through the morning mist, were heard one after another as the Xijiang River began to spring to life. On the peak of the "volcano" on the opposite bank of the river, an ancient tower could be seen rising up above the layer of mist.

Appearances are deceiving here as the "volcano" is by no means a real one. It is, however, a scenic spot in Wuzhou City. Legend has it that Zhao Tuo, King of the Kingdom of Nanyue in the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24), once hid a magic sword in the mountain when he was the governor of Nanhai in the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). Thereafter, late at night every three or five days, the mountain would give



The Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Wuzhou was built to commemorate Dr. Sun who visited Wuzhou three times.



The "snake king" of the largest snake storehouse in China playing with a three-metre-long python.



Nuns of the Xizhuyuan Buddhist Temple watering the green vegetables which they have grown on the roof of the temple

out a strange light. The "flaming mountain at night" thus became known far and wide as an extraordinary sight in Wuzhou City.

This legend has made it possible for Wuzhou's history to be traced back to the Kingdom of Nanyue, demonstrating that it has a fairly ancient existence. In fact, Wuzhou, the city with the longest history in Guangxi, was called Cangwu in ancient times, but has been known as Wuzhou since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Due to the fact that it is located close to three rivers, Wuzhou is very conveniently situated for water transportation, thus making it possible for it to be the second largest port city, though smaller than Guangzhou, in the Pearl River water system. From the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), most



people from Guangxi who have settled down overseas started their voyage via Wuzhou.

The morning mist dispersed gradually and a magnificent view of Wuzhou's location close to the three rivers was presented before my eyes. The Xunjiang River in the southwest meets the Guijiang River running from north to south, both of which converge forming the Xijiang River, surging eastward. The city proper is divided into two parts by the Guijiang River. The city centre, where I was staying, is situated in the eastern section of the city, where it borders on the Xijiang River in the south and rims along the North Mountain, Guanyin Mountain and Baiyun (White Cloud) Mountain in the north. Wuzhou, thus, is both a river city and a mountain city.

The First Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in China

The North Mountain is beautiful for its scenery. However, what has made it a sacred place for tourists is the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall there.

Reaching the top of the North Mountain, I came to a building, with a round tower soaring into the air; the stairs and the stone walls of the building looked most solemn.

From 1921 to 1922, while Dr. Sun Yat-sen was in Guangxi leading the First Northern Expedition, he came to Wuzhou three times and ascended the North Mountain. The erection of this memorial hall in 1930 was to commemorate Dr. Sun Yat-sen and is said to be the first Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in China.

Such kind of old buildings, incorporating both Chinese and Western features, represent the most typical architecture to be found in "Little Guangzhou" (by Ma Yiu Chun).





Even the taps inside the Longmu (Dragon Mother) Temple are moulded in the shape of a dragon head.

Vegetable Raising on a House Roof and Appreciating a Snake Meal

Leaving the North Mountain and then mounting Guanyin Mountain nearby, I approached a Buddhist temple known as Xizhuyuan and found myself in another world.

Xizhuyuan was built layer upon layer on the mountain slope, facing the noisy downtown area. I found beds of shiny green vegetables growing on the roof of a wing of the temple, with several nuns watering the crop.

On my visit to Xizhuyuan, I did not patronize the vegetarian restaurant there, but instead went all the way to the snake storehouse at the foot of the mountain to taste the snake food there.

The snake storehouse in Wuzhou is the largest of its kind in China. The snake eaten in Hong Kong and Macau originates mostly from here. It so happened that a tourist group was on a visit to the snake storehouse, so I seized the chance of learning from the "snake king" here how he played with the snake. Each dish of the lunch was connected in

some way with snake, with the meat being boiled, stir-fried or braised.

After lunch, I was informed that the tourist group would visit Longmu (Dragon Mother) Temple on the east bank of the Guijiang River, so I decided to go with the group. Although there are Longmu Temples at various places in Guangdong and Guangxi, the one in Wuzhou is considered the original one. It is said that Longmu was the female chief tain of the ancient Cangwu. When she ascended into heaven and became the Dragon Mother, she still protected and blessed the common people in Cangwu. For this reason, the people in Wuzhou put the birthday of Longmu above all other festivals. On this day, people swarm into the place to offer sacrifices to Longmu, on a much larger scale than in other places.

That afternoon, I climbed up Baihe (White Crane) Mountain on the west bank of the Guijiang River. Looking down on the confluence of the Xunjiang and Guijiang Rivers from the top of the mountain, I noticed the different colours of the water, green on one side

The house of a bird-seller in Wuzhou City is full of birds and bird-cages.



Regarded as a first-class maker of bamboo and cane handicrafts in Cenxi County, Mr. Liang seems very proud of himself.



Farmers of Shuiwen Village in Cenxi County are now largely engaged in doing extra work producing arts and crafts exported to overseas countries.

Cenxi, a "Little Shenzhen"

When in Wuzhou I was told by a friend that Cenxi County, which is adjacent to Wuzhou City, has become a "big customer" of the land and water port of the Xijiang River, for there are many joint ventures, solely-owned enterprises and co-operative projects here and opportunities abound for it to open its doors to the outside world. It has therefore been described as the Little Shenzhen of Guangxi.

As a matter of fact, the prosperity of Cenxi County has something to do with the fact that it is the second largest hometown of overseas Chinese in Guangxi. Many of those who left their hometown and went abroad via the Xijiang River in the old days have returned for a visit to their hometown by the Xijiang River



Large number of fans made of bamboo are spread on the ground to dry in the sun.



People from Shuiwen Village in Cenxi who have settled down overseas always send money back to their hometown's relatives through this old medicine shop.




This type of old house is increasingly difficult to find in the village areas of Cenxi County.

again. The benefits they have brought back to their hometown have yielded positive results to the county as a whole.

Knowing that the most famous product in Cenxi County is handicrafts, I drove for scores of kilometres to Cenxi's Nandu Town to visit Mr. Liang, who is regarded as a first-class craftsman of bamboo articles. He has truly become a big entrepreneur thanks to his articles made of bamboo, cane and barley beards numbering millions and his thousands of varieties of braided handicrafts. These products produced by people in the town are exported to Europe, America and Asia, and as a result, nearly every household is busy knitting and braiding, as if the whole town is the production facility of bamboo and cane handicrafts.

Leaving Nandu Town, I drove back to Cenxi county seat to visit Mr. Tan, a young man who runs an art work factory with four branches located in Cenxi, Xinyi County of Guangdong and Shenzhen, producing embroidered clothes, pottery and porcelain, jade sculptures and wood carvings. His business is so extensive that it seems to be a big organization. He drove us in his comfortable car to Shuiwen Village bordering on Guangdong to visit his general factory in his hometown. The villagers I saw are simple farmers who are now engaged in doing skilled labour.

After coming into contact with these two entrepreneurs, I know for certain that Cenxi County is marching ahead of other places in Guangxi. 

Translated by Yang Meizhen

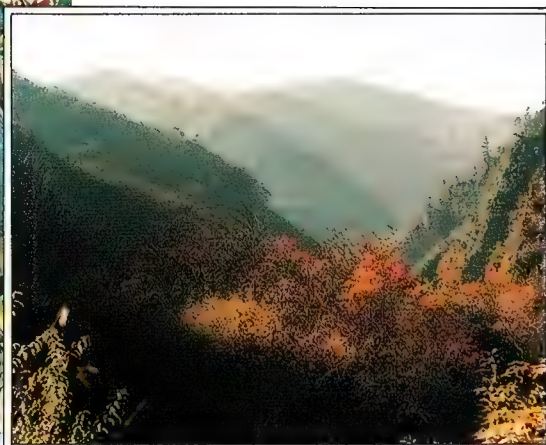


The Giant Panda: Sichuan's Claim to Fame

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY HOU YIMIN



Bamboo is the panda's staple food in the wild.



The Wolong Mountain Range stretches in the distance.

Bearcat

The vast land and varied terrain of Sichuan in southwestern China are abundant in natural resources. Its climate differs greatly from north to south and from the basin area in the east to the numerous mountain chains in the west. These features combine to create a great number of rare animals and plants as well as a wide variety of local and regional produce. Here, we introduce our readers to one of the world's most familiar animal species — the giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleucus*).

The animal's name in Chinese means bear-cat, as the giant panda calls to mind both a bear and a cat. It is actually, however, a member of the raccoon family. The fully grown panda with mostly white fur with black limbs, ears and eye-patches and a broad black band across the shoulders weighs about 100 to 130 kilogrammes and is about 1.5 to 1.8 metres long. Its staple food is a kind of bamboo called the glossy-leaf China cane, a plant that is thin and about three metres tall and tastes slightly sweet with a crispy texture. Giant pandas are accustomed to living in China cane groves. They also sometimes feed on birds, snakes and bamboo rats but are especially fond of roasted or stewed meat. Studies by Chinese zoologists show



*A corner in the China's Research Centre
for the Protection of Giant Pandas*

The giant panda is an agile tree climber

that giant pandas are similar to other omnivorous animals in dietary habit, but do not hibernate in winter. They are easy to train and are playful. Their body movements when playing are greatly appreciated by humans. Because of their rarity and popularity major zoos around the world are interested in exchanging other animals for giant pandas from China.

The Giant Panda's Evolution and History

Fossils indicate that the progenitors of these animals were already in existence in China about three million years ago during the early

Pleistocene Epoch and were most numerous during the middle Pleistocene Epoch. Then they inhabited a wide area in southern China and South Asia from Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangdong and northern Burma to Hebei and Shanxi in northern China. It took its present shape roughly 600,000 years ago. From the late Palaeolithic period onward, the extensive increase of human activities, changes in climate, natural conditions and especially men's influence on the environment in the most recent century, have devastated forests and green bamboo groves, therefore drastically reducing the habitat of the giant panda. At present, the giant panda is confined to the Qionglai

Minshan, the Greater and Lesser Liangshan and the Greater and Lesser Xiangling Mountain ranges in Sichuan Province, Wenxian County in Gansu Province and Foping County in Shaanxi Province.

The *Book of History*, one of the earliest Chinese books written over 3,000 years ago during the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-770 B.C.), and the *Book of Odes*, the oldest surviving anthology of poems both described an animal resembling the giant panda, saying it looked similar to the tiger and the leopard. According to one legend, at a grand banquet hosted in the capital Chang'an (present-day Xi'an) by Emperor Taizong (reign dates 627-649) of the Tang Dynasty, he was presented with a panda hide from each of a dozen officials. The first live panda was observed in 1869 in Baoxing County, Sichuan.

The home range for a single giant panda is between 3.9 to 6.4 square kilometres, with that of a male panda either similar to or slightly larger than that of a female. Probably the beast's low-caloric food has confined the panda to a relatively fixed area. Small as such a range might seem, part of the home range is rarely visited by the animal.

The giant panda spends about sixty per cent of the day roaming about and the figure is slightly lower than this only in September. It is most inactive between 8:00 to 9:00 in the morning and after 7:00 in the evening and most active between 4:00 to 6:00 in the morning and 4:00 to 7:00 in the evening.

Daytime activities of the giant panda consist mainly of looking for, preparing and chewing bamboo. Other pursuits such as walking, occupy only a small percentage of its time. The giant panda is unable to increase its protein intake simply by eating faster, because of the long period of time it takes for food to be digested. Thus, it has to spend most of its time trying to fill its stomach. Like most non-ruminant

grass-eating animals, the panda spends fifty per cent of any day eating. Various studies of panda activities have indicated that it is most active during spring. In spring, looking for and eating plant sprouts and bamboo shoots are time-consuming.


Recent and past studies have revealed that the giant panda is also an iron eater. At a panda farm at Wolong, a basin made of galvanized iron containing panda feed was eaten by a panda. Later, small pieces of the basin were found in its droppings and the panda was not hurt by the iron in any sense. It is no wonder that the *Northern Sichuan Annals* once referred to the panda as "the iron-eating animal". The panda is also fond of sweet food like apples and sugar cane.

At present, the giant panda is on the verge of extinction, and has a population of only about 1,000 in total, scattered in over a dozen giant panda nature reserves in China.

The Wolong Nature Reserve: Home of Pandas

One of the major areas under national protection, the Wolong Nature Reserve was established in 1975. Lying across the highland valleys of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, in Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province, about 100 kilometres northwest of the capital city of Chengdu, the reserve covers an area of some 200,000 hectares, stretching 60 kilometres from east to west and 63 kilometres from north to south. Its altitude drops dramatically from the northwest to the southeast, with the Siguniang Mountains on the northwest border rising some 6,250 metres above sea level and the height of the lowest mountain on the southeast border being just 1,200 metres. The reserve area features several different climates each of which also has its own distinctive flora and fauna.

Rivers and streams crisscross the nature reserve, adding to the diversity of the terrain and natural conditions within. The protected area is a complete highland ecological system with an abundance of fauna and flora. According to scientific studies and estimates by experts, the protected area is home to some 4,000 kinds of plants, making up forty per cent of the total number of plant species in the entire province. It is also home to 96 mammal species, over 230 bird species, twenty species of reptiles, fourteen amphibian species and six fish species.

The reserve serves as a strategic base for the protection, research and utilization of the ecological system, natural resources and the nature as a whole. It also has a rich natural historical legacy. The beautiful and richly endowed Wolong Natural Reserve is known throughout China and the world as the "home of giant pandas", and has attracted public attention and interest far and wide. 

Translated by Huang Youyi

A Photographer's Advice

For photography lovers, it is not at all easy to capture giant pandas on film in the depths of forests 3,000 to 4,000 metres above sea level. The dim light, close interlocking of plants and trees, floods, mud and rocks all make photography extremely difficult. Furthermore, the chubby panda, which appears to be gentle, can be brutal when in the wild and may attack the photographer at any moment. Its unusually sharp sense of smell and listening ability enable it to detect humans some forty metres distant. The photographer, therefore, must move forward quietly, slowly and be alert at all times.

Experience has proven that photographing the giant panda at close range yields the best results, but is also most dangerous. After spotting his subject, the photographer should first observe the beast's behaviour carefully and find out the direction from which the panda may launch an attack, and then select in advance the most convenient route of retreat and the method of protecting oneself in the event of attack. When all these possibilities have been considered a successful photography session is more or less ensured.



Giant pandas, threatened by extinction in China, have indeed a very low fertility rate.



BAOTOU SUMENGTE LINEN TEXTILE JOINT VENTURE CO. LTD.

Baotou Sumengte Linen Textile Joint Venture Co. Ltd., the largest Sino-Russian joint venture company nationwide, lies in Inner Mongolia's "steel city" — Baotou.

Founded in 1991, the venture has now taken a lead in the world's linen textile industry. It has a comprehensive base including linen seed raising and planting, raw material processing, yarn spinning and cloth weaving and dyeing. Our company is fully self-sufficient, in everything from raw materials to finished products.



The venture is under Sino-Russian co-management. With the world's largest linen research institute — the Scientific Manufacturing Association "AVTOMATIZATSIJALEGPROM" as one of the joint venture's partners, we can guarantee long-term technological advances.

The venture now produces an annual output of 1,200 tons of pure linen yarn (primarily coloured and bleached) including the following counts: 15N^m, 18N^m, 22N^m, 24N^m, 36N^m and 42N^m, as well as 4,000,000 metres of yarn-dyed flax fabrics, jacquard cloth and printed calico to be used for clothing and furnishings.

In the near future, our company will be producing a series of linen products including knitwear and other garments. "High quality products, first-rate service" is our aim. Customers from home and abroad are all welcome to our company for business and design discussions.

In order to broaden our international markets of linen products, our company hopes to establish a co-operative relationship with trading companies dealing in linen products world-wide.



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BUSINESS TIPS

Investment Booming on Shandong Peninsula

The Shandong Peninsula, in the northeast of Shandong Province, is rapidly becoming a favourite location for investors, with US\$3.4 billion in foreign funds flowing into the region last year. The Shandong Peninsula Economic Open Area consists of seven cities, including Qingdao, Yantai, the capital Jinan and 53 counties. At present over 3,500 foreign-funded projects have been approved for the area, approximately 40 per cent of which are located in rural towns and villages. Qingdao has taken the lead in simplifying and streamlining its investment procedures, offering improved services for all stages of project development.

Six more economic development zones have been approved for Qingdao, Weifang, Zibo and Shilaoren. The provincial government has plans for a total of 34 development zones on the peninsula. Qingdao and Jinan airports will be open to international traffic, and will have over 30 domestic and foreign routes. The existing zones have made great efforts to strengthen services to make investment in the region more attractive and convenient for foreign business people.

New Free Trade Zone in Ningbo

Construction of a new free trade zone is already underway in Ningbo, an open coastal city in Zhejiang Province. The zone will be located in Beilun, a port with advanced facilities for international containers. US\$13 million has been put into the project, and although it is not yet fully operational, 26 companies have already been registered in the zone.

New Marine Park Planned for Tianjin

Construction has already begun on a 2.28-square-kilometre marine park located in the Tanggu District of the coastal city Tianjin. The park, which is open to foreign investment, will include projects such as the utilization of seawater, environmental protection of the ocean, marine culture and the storage, packaging and transport of marine products.

Tanggu Port is China's largest man-made port with a yearly handling capacity of 20 million tons. Rich in marine resources, Tanggu District has over 10 marine research and service institutes, thus it is a location well-suited to the construction of a marine park. The completion date is set at 1995.

New Policies Attract Investors to Shanxi

Shuozhou, a coal-producing city (25 million tons per year) in northern Shanxi Province, is offering attractive terms for foreign investors. Preferential policies have been issued regarding taxation, the use of land, personnel management and marketing. Foreigners are now allowed to invest in urban construction, real estate, land development and in the financial and service sectors. In addition, companies with foreign investments will enjoy lower taxes, longer periods of tax exemption, autonomy in hiring and setting up of offices, as well as the right to lease land at very low costs. The zone covers a downtown area of 16.4 square kilometres and includes a residential district, a culture and entertainment district and an industrial district. The main areas being targeted for foreign investment are energy, transport, coal processing, textiles, food, education, culture and high-tech industries.

All of Fujian to Open Up

Fujian Province on China's east coast is planning to open all of its regions for development and foreign investment. A free trade port will be established in Xiamen, already a Special Economic Zone, and work on the economic and technological zones of Mawei, Rongqiao and Dongshan will also be accelerated. Preferential policies on both domestic and foreign investment will be set up, with overseas investors already starting to lease land in the Yuanhong and Gangwei development zones.

Shantou Looking for Overseas Partners

Shantou, a Special Economic Zone in Guangdong Province, is currently seeking overseas partners for 108 projects to be undertaken this year. Last year Shantou officials approved over 1,000 projects involving foreign investment, and the year's total import-export volume reached US\$3.35 billion.

The projects needing foreign partners include electronics, machinery manufacturing, chemicals, rail and highway construction, port development and four power plants. Shantou has recently greatly improved its infrastructure facilities, thus attracting more and more overseas investors. At present 980 organizations in the city have the right to import and export goods, and Shantou was recently listed one of China's five pilot cities for the management of industrial, business and administrative affairs.

Fuzhou to Become Free Trade Zone

Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, is soon to develop an area of the city as a free trade zone within the Mawei Economic and Technological Development Zone. Recently approved by the State Council, a 1.8-square-kilometre section of the city will be opened for entrepôt trading and will act as host for processing, packaging, storage, transport and commodities businesses. Initial facilities were completed in November of last year, and already seven overseas-funded companies have begun construction of new projects.

Anhui Expanding Foreign Trade

Anhui Province, in a bid to develop more foreign trade links, is planning to expand its markets to include the European Community, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Southeast Asia and South America. At present the province has business links in Japan, the United States, Hong Kong and Macau, and this year will be setting up new companies in the CIS, the United States, Canada, Macau and Japan. The province will also be opening more channels to increase its exports and developing high-tech industries such as machine building.

Foreigners to Be Allowed to Run Retail Joint Ventures

Eleven Chinese cities are to let foreign business people participate in the management of joint venture retail operations. Due to rapid growth in the retail sector, the Chinese authorities have decided to allow foreign-run businesses in the cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Dalian and Qingdao, as well as in the five special economic zones of Hainan Island in Hainan Province, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou in Guangdong and Xiamen in Fujian. Although the state still needs to have control over the development of businesses run solely by foreigners, it is planning to relax its control in the future as the Chinese market grows and matures.



Major Hotels in Yunnan, Hainan & Guizhou Provinces

Kunming, Yunnan

Begonia (Haitang) Hotel

海棠飯店
Huancheng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650000
Tel: 3137573
GM: Wang Xiuying
231 rooms and suites Rates: FEC ¥140
Located next to the eastern bus station, 9 km from airport,
5 km from railway station

Golden Dragon Hotel

金龍飯店
575 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan 650011
Tel: 3133104 Telex: 64060 GDHMK CN Fax: 3131082
GM: Mai Qiliang
Opened January 1988
302 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$60-80,
suite US\$150-750
Located 4 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC¥100; railway station, FEC¥30
Facilities: Business centre, restaurants offering Western,
Japanese, Guangdong and Yunnan dishes,
conference/banquet rooms, indoor swimming pool, gym,
bar, karaoke, disco, tennis court, clinic

Golden Flower Hotel

金花賓館
143 Huancheng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 3132118
152 rooms and 17 suites Rates: FEC¥160
Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Golden Peacock Hotel

金孔雀飯店
Daguan Park, Kunming, Yunnan 650032
Tel: 4141334 Telex: 64017 GPHKM CN Fax: 4141087
GM: An Rui Chuan
Opened June 1988
104 rooms Rates: Standard US\$30
Located 10 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC¥20
Facilities: Business services, restaurant, bar, billiard room,
dance hall, karaoke

Green Lake Hotel

翠湖賓館
6 Cuihu (Green Lake) Road South, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 5158888 Telex: 64073 GLHTL CN Fax: 5153886
GM: Gao Shi Zhong
Opened 1965
172 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$75, suite
US\$128/550
Located in city centre, by the Green Lake Park, 12 km from
airport, 7 km from railway station
Taxi fare to airport (round trip), US\$18
Facilities: Restaurants, beauty salon, massage

Kunming Hotel

昆明飯店



Photo by Peng Zhengze



145 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650051
Tel: 3162063, 3162171 Telex: 64058 KMHTL CN
Fax: 3163784
GM: Duan Fu Guang
Opened 1958
400 rooms and suites Rates: US\$68
Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms,
coffee shop, dance hall, gym, business centre, karaoke,
disco, sauna, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool

Kunming Camellia Hotel

昆明茶花賓館
154 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650041
Tel: 3163000, 3162918 Telex: 64135 KMCH CN
GM: Li Datong
Opened February 1986
140 rooms Rates: US\$23
Located 7 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥25; railway station, Rmb¥10
Facilities: Shuttle bus service, business centre, shopping
arcade, dancing room, Chinese dining room, bar

Lian Yun Hotel

連雲賓館
13 Yuan Tong Street, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 5157330
Rates: FEC¥120
Located 13 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Nan Jiang Hotel

南疆賓館
41 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 4141518
GM: Liu Yong Lu
Rates: FEC¥100
Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Nan Yao Hotel

南窑大酒店
Ming Tong Road, Southern Railway Station, Kunming,
Yunnan
Tel: 3135017
GM: Shu Jian

Orchid Hotel

蘭花賓館
Huancheng Road South, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3135553 Fax: 3133155
GM: Ma Lihou
Opened 28 January 1992
252 rooms



Located 15 minutes from airport, 3 minutes from railway
station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥15; railway station, Rmb¥10
Facilities: Karaoke, bar, dancing hall, beauty salon,
restaurants

Spring City Hotel

春城酒樓
6-9 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 23962, 24635
GM: Wang Gui Zheng
56 standard rooms and 5 suites Rates: FEC¥200
Located 13 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Xiuyan Hotel

西園飯店
Western suburbs of Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 29969
10 rooms in the villa in the inner section, 20 rooms in the
outer section
Located opposite to Lake Dianchi

Yunnan Hotel

雲南飯店
83 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3132419
GM: Liu Jiaxiang
Opened 1962
382 rooms Rates: FEC¥120
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Yun Xin Hotel

雲新飯店
Huancheng Road South, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3135351
GM: Tang Gui Rong

Dali, Yunnan

Dali Hotel

大理賓館
Fuxing Road, Dali Tel: Dali Switchboard

Erhai Guesthouse

洱海賓館
Renmin Street, Dali Tel: 5681

Nanzhao Hotel

南詔賓館
Jianshe Road, Dali Tel: 4397

Xiaguan Hotel

下關賓館
1 Renmin Street, Xiaguan, Dali, Yunnan
Tel: 25028, 25579
GM: Zhao Taiyu
Opened 20 September 1988
154 rooms Rates: US\$15/20
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Meeting rooms, Chinese and Western restaurants,
shopping arcade

Haikou, Hainan

Haikou Hotel

海口賓館
4 Haifu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 772221, 772266-8878, 773245
Telex: 490060 HTLHK CN

Fax: 772232
GM: Wu Yuming
Opened 1987
200 rooms Rates: Standard HK\$468, suite HK\$728
Located 1 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference halls, shopping arcade, swimming pool, gym, business centre, dancing hall, beauty salon, karaoke

Haikou International Financial Centre

海口國際金融大廈
33 Datong Road, Haikou, Hainan 570001
Tel: 773088, 774099 Telex: 490058, 490059 HITFC CN
Fax: 772113, 774574
Opened February 1988
141 rooms and suites Rates: Standard HK\$360/400/480, suite HK\$660-1000 (all + 10%)
Located in the commercial and cultural centre of Haikou City, 10 minutes from airport
Facilities: Karaoke, bar, disco, Chinese restaurant, business centre, conference rooms, bowling, swimming pool, billiard room, gym, postal service, beauty salon

Haikou Nanchang Hotel

海口南昌大廈
Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 222866
Rates: Standard Rmb¥100, deluxe Rmb¥120
Located 2 km from airport

Haikou Tower Hotel

海口泰華酒店
Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 772990, 773962 Telex: 490050 TOWER CN
Fax: 773966
GM: Raymond Ng
Opened 25 November 1986
104 rooms Rates: Standard FEC¥379.5/414, suite FEC¥621/667
Located in the new financial centre of Haikou, 10 minutes from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, coffee shop, conference room, business centre, beauty salon, billiard room, swimming pool, tennis courts, gym

Jiantian Hotel

建天大酒店
West Airport Road, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 774888 Telex: 45053 NTHTL CN
GM: Liang Mingze
91 rooms and suites Rates: Single FEC¥124, double FEC¥185, suite FEC¥280
Located 1 km from airport, 2 km from the city centre

Overseas Chinese Hotel



Binhai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 772776, 773423 Telex: 490057 OCHTC CN
21 rooms Rates: HK\$547
Located 3 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, karaoke, dancing hall

Qiongyuan Hotel

琼苑賓館
Jiulongpai Road, Haifu Avenue, Haikou, Hainan 570003
Tel: 342245

Seaview International Hotel

望海國際大酒店
6 Haixiu Road, Haikou, Hainan 570005
Tel: 773381, 773392 Telex: 490054 SIHHK CN
Fax: 773101
267 rooms and suites Rates: Standard Rmb¥100-240, suite Rmb¥225-420
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, bar, coffee shop, postal service, business centre, shopping arcade

Wuzhishan Hotel

五指山大廈
6 Airport Road East, Haikou, Hainan
Tel: 772012, 772712
GM: Lu Shiguang
Opened 1 June 1987
154 rooms Rates: US\$20
Located in the city centre, 500 m from railway station
Taxi fare to/from railway station, FEC¥7
Facilities: Coffee shop, banquet halls, conference rooms, Chinese restaurants

Tongshi, Hainan

Tongshi Holiday Resort

通什度假村
Haiyu Road North, Tongshi, Hainan 572200

Tongshi Travel Villa

通什旅遊山莊
Hebei Road West, Suburban Area, Tongshi, Hainan 572200

Wuzhishan Guest House

五指山賓館
Aimin Road, Tongshi, Hainan 572200

Sanya, Hainan

Jinling Holiday Resort

金陵度假村



Photo by Zhu Xingguang

Luling Road, Sanya, Hainan 572021
Tel: 214088 Fax: 214088
GM: Huang Xiuguang
Opened 28 November 1989
147 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$50, suite US\$90
Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet rooms, dance hall, bar, coffee shop, karaoke, shopping arcade, conference rooms, beauty salon, clinic, business centre, beach

Luhuitou Guest House

三亞市鹿回頭賓館
Luhuitou, Sanya, Hainan 572000

Sanya Hotel

三亞賓館
2 Jiefang Road, Sanya, Hainan 572000

Sanya International Hotel

三亞國際大酒店
Jiefang Road East, Sanya, Hainan
Tel: 273068, 274041 Fax: 275049
GM: Xi Qinghui
220 rooms Rates: US\$45
Located 20 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥15-20



Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, gym, beauty salon, business centre, disco

Guiyang, Guizhou

Bajiaoan Hotel

八角岩飯店
64 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001
Tel: 663323

Guiyang Plaza Hotel

金筑大酒店
2 Yan'an Road East, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001
Tel: 627048, 627047 Telex: 66001 PLAZA CN
Fax: 622994
GM: Paul Cheung & Wu Tie
Opened 28 December 1989
175 rooms and suites Rates: US\$48-88
Located 35 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, US\$40
Facilities: Business centre, bar, Chinese and Western restaurants, billiard room, outdoor swimming pool, disco, sauna, gym

Guizhou Hotel

貴州飯店
66 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001
Tel: 623888, 624888 Telex: 66075 GZPH CN
Fax: 624397

Huaxi Hotel

花溪賓館
Huaxi District, Guiyang, Guizhou 550025
Tel: 551129 Telex: 66017 HXHTL CN

Jinqiao Hotel

金橋飯店
34 Ruijin Road Central, Guiyang, Guizhou 550003
Tel: 24872

Qiaoyi Hotel

僑園酒店
1 Nanchang Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550002
Tel: 23966 Telex: 66059 GZQYH CN

Yunyan Hotel

雲岩賓館
68 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001
Tel: 625234

Anshun, Guizhou

Hongshan Hotel

虹山賓館
42 Honghu Road East, Anshun, Guizhou 561000
Tel: 22088, 23435, 23101, 23162
GM: Lu Ren Xian Opened 1958
82 rooms Rates: US\$19
Located 100 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Bar, shopping arcade, nightclub, beauty salon

National Hotel

民族飯店
Tashan Road East, Anshun, Guizhou
Tel: 22621, 22500
GM: Hua Fengxing Opened April 1986
150 rooms Rates: Standard US\$30, suite US\$60
Located 95 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥361
Facilities: Shopping centre, karaoke, dancing hall

Flowers in Yunnan

Kunming, also known as the "City of Eternal Spring", is famous throughout China for its temperate climate and profusion of beautiful and exotic flowers. In particular, from January to March, Kunming is awash with blooms of various species, both wild and cultivated. From late February to March 8, people flock to Yuantong Park on Chignon Hill (or Yuantong Hill) to see the cherry trees in full blossom. Some varieties are native to Yunnan and others were brought over from Japan in 1961.

Due to Kunming's mild climate, there are always some species of flowers in bloom and nearly all inhabitants have flower beds on their balconies and windowsills, making this city one of the most colourful in the country. While visiting Yunnan, one can easily see gardens filled with flamboyant camellias, multicoloured azaleas, primroses, magnolias, orchids, lilies, rough gentian and more.

Magnolia

Yunnan boasts the largest variety of magnolia in the world, with some species, such as the Burmese cassia, found only here. It has small, yellow blossoms and is often worn by women of the Dai minority. If you visit the home of a Dai family in May or June, you are sure to see some fine examples of



Yulan magnolia (by Feng Faguang)

this rare flower. Chinese New Year is the best time to see the traditional white magnolia, often displayed together with red camellias at temples, the Black Dragon Pool Park and the Botanical Garden of the Botany Research Institute in Kunming.

Rough Gentian

The mountains at 2,000-4,800 metres above sea level in northwestern Yunnan have the richest vegetation of any mountainous area on earth. Rough gentian, together with the azalea and primrose are considered the three most famous flowers of China, all originating in these mountains. Rough gentian flowers come in many shades of blue, and grow in the grasslands, on cliffs and in between rocks. One kind of this flower, dark blue in colour, has become a highly valued ornamental plant in England, brought to the British Botanical Garden from Lijiang in the 19th century.

Lily

One of the last flowers to blossom each spring is the lily, famed for the enormous size and brilliant colours of its petals. Yunnan boasts the greatest variety of lilies in all of China, found in the Honghe River Valley, along the Lancang River and on Yulong (Jade Dragon) and Gaoligong Mountains.

Orchid

Since ancient times orchids have been appreciated by Chinese scholars and poets as a symbol of perfection and purity. They are considered to be the most elegant and refined of all flowers and have an exceptionally sweet fragrance.

Spring Festival is the best time to see orchids in bloom—in homes, temples and in the Daguan (Grand View) Park. There are two categories of orchid, the "Chinese" and the "tropical". The former can be found in many places in China, but several rare

varieties of the tropical orchid grow only in the forests of Xishuangbanna in southern Yunnan, in Taiwan and in Hainan Province.

Azalea

Azaleas grow wild in temperate and subtropical zones. Of the 800 varieties of azalea in the world, 650 grow in Yunnan and over 50 are found in Kunming alone. Azaleas, being indigenous to Yunnan, thrive everywhere in the province—on mountains, in forests and in open fields. There are cherry azaleas which are cardinal red, golden azaleas and azaleas with camellia leaves, the flowers of which are blue. Some trees even bear flowers of more than one colour.

China has long been known for its brilliant varieties of azalea. In the 19th century, European countries sent forth expeditions to China to collect samples, several hundred of which are displayed in the British Botanical Garden.



Azalea (by Gao Yuan)



a (by Chen Keqin)

Camellia


Yunnan has over 100 varieties of camellia, locally known as Kunming's "city flower", all of which bloom in early spring.

There are several excellent locations where camellias can be seen. In the courtyard of Huating Temple in the Western Hills is a camellia tree said to have been planted by Emperor Huidi (r. 1399-1402) of the Ming Dynasty, and is over one foot in diameter. The Black Dragon Pool Park in the northern suburbs of Kunming has an annual exhibition in the spring of dozens of varieties of camellia in bloom.

The most impressive tree, however, is in Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County in the courtyard of the Jade Summit Temple. From early February to April this huge tree blossoms at least ten times, each time putting forth over 10,000 flowers, hence its local nickname, the "Camellia of Ten Thousand Blossoms". According to legend, there was once a brave hunter who lived in the wild Yunnan mountains. One day he met a girl shepherd with whom he fell deeply in love. When they wanted to get married, however, the heads of their two clans opposed the

union, and they were forced to elope. At the place where they were to rendez-vous, they found that they were being pursued, therefore rather than be caught they made a fire and both committed suicide. After the next spring rain, out of their ashes grew two inter-twining camellia trees which eventually grew into one. It is said that the flowers of the tree are particularly red because the flame of their love burned so brightly.

Primrose

The primrose is one of the first flowers to herald the arrival of spring, and can be found in fields, along roads or growing next to streams. Of the 500 varieties of primrose found world-wide, 390 are native to China and approximately 200 varieties grow in Yunnan. The best place to see wild primroses is in the highlands at an elevation of over 2,500 metres. 

Tourism Developments in Sanya

Located in the southernmost corner of Hainan Island, Sanya is fast becoming a popular tourist destination for both domestic and international travellers. With its golden-white sand and shimmering sea, there is no doubt that Sanya boasts the most beautiful beaches in China.

Due to the steadily increasing number of tourists discovering Sanya, development has had to proceed at a rapid pace. The most recent project completed in Sanya is the US\$28 million Dadonghai Tourism Centre, opened in August 1992. The spacious compound includes the 228-room four-star South China Hotel, five beach villas, a beach club, tennis courts, a golf course and a water amusement park, complete with water slides and a swimming pool.

The authorities in charge of Hainan Province have decided to make tourism the island's main industry, therefore new projects are developing quickly. The South China Hotel, for example, was built in an astonishing 133 days. Hainan Island is an ideal place for tourism. Covering an area of about 34,000 square kilometres, it is just a little smaller than Taiwan. It has a tropical climate with average yearly temperatures ranging from 22-26°C, and even in January


the lowest temperature is around 19°C. From July to August, temperatures remain between 28-32°C.

Another attraction for tourists is the large number of minority peoples that inhabit the island. Of Sanya's total population of 320,000, 140,000 belong to either the Li or Miao ethnic groups, the two largest in China. Like many other minorities, they wear traditional clothes and have many interesting customs. The Miao often put on song and dance performances, which can be seen at some hotels and resorts.

One of the most fascinating performances on the island is the Li people's Bamboo Dance, where three couples kneel down facing each other holding long bamboo poles. The dancers must step between them without touching the poles, as the poles move faster and faster in time with the music.

Besides attracting foreign tourists, Sanya is quickly becoming a popular destination for domestic travellers. Hainan Province is China's largest special economic zone, thus businessmen flock there, seeing it as a land of opportunity.

Unfortunately, the airport in Sanya has been closed for expansion work until 1994,

so travellers must fly to Haikou and then go overland to Sanya. The six-hour bus ride, however, is well worth the time for the wonderful scenery along the way that would otherwise be missed. 

Hainan's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Baisha Li AC	白沙黎族自治县
Baoting Liao & Miao AC	保亭黎族苗族自治县
Changjiang Li AC	昌江黎族自治县
Chengmai C	澄迈县
Danxian C	儋县
Ding'an C	定安县
Dongfang Li AC	东方黎族自治县
Haikou	海口市
Ledong Li AC	乐东黎族自治县
Lingao C	临高县
Lingshui Li AC	陵水黎族自治县
Qionghai C	琼海县
Qiongsan C	琼山县
Qiongzong Li & Miao AC	琼中黎族苗族自治县
Sanya	三亚市
Tunchang C	屯昌县
Wanning C	万宁县
Wenchang C	文昌县

Note:

C: County

AC: Autonomous County

A Great Variety of Landscapes Along the Yunnan Border

Located on the southwestern border of China, Yunnan borders on Burma, Laos and Vietnam with a boundary line 4,060 kilometres long, along which live fourteen minority nationalities. Today along the line there are 103 routes for the local people to cross the boundary and therefore border trade is brisk, bringing to the area not only a lively atmosphere and improved life, but also a number of outside visitors. Perhaps the principle reason for tourists to come here is that the natural landscapes are rich and colourful. There are unbroken mountain ranges topped by snow-capped peaks and undulating hills interspersed with fertile basins and dense forests, all of which are punctuated by

the Nujiang River, the Biluo Snow Mountains, the Lancang River and the Yunling Range. The mountains have an average height of over 3,400 metres above sea level, with some peaks rising to heights over 4,000 metres. The descent between the peaks and valleys ranges 1,000 to 2,500 metres and some deep valleys drop more than 3,000 metres below the peaks. The cliffs in the valley are precipitous and dangerous, with some standing at a 90° angle rarely seen. The cliffs on the Gaoligong Mountains and the Biluo Snow Mountains along the Nujiang River stand like two natural walls facing each other over the river. The flanks of the mountains with snow-capped peaks are covered

valleys deep and the river torrential, the area is inaccessible and is scarcely populated. The mountain regions still remain in their natural state and the climatic differences are distinct from the mountaintop to the valley. The tree species can be thus generalized as subtropical evergreen broadleaf forests, temperate deciduous broadleaf forests and temperate mixed forests of coniferous and broadleaf trees. The flora species in the forests are very complicated: apart from a great number of abieses, spruces to be used as timber there are also such rare species as *Amentotaxus argolaenia*, *Fagus longipetiolata* and *Podocarpus marcophyllus*. Due to the special topography, ecology and flora in the



A Hot Spring Bath in Tengchong, Yunnan
(by Chen Keqin)

The Nujiang River Valley in Bijiang County
(by Fan Xisheng)

numerous rapidly flowing rivers and hot springs. According to its specific topography, this area can be divided from north to south into three zones: the zone with an unusual combination of mountains and rivers, the zone of volcanoes and hot springs, and the zone of tropical rain forests.

The Unusual Combination of Mountains and Rivers

The unusual combination of mountains and rivers refers to the border area between Lushui County and the Gongshan Drung and Nu Autonomous County on the Yunnan-Tibet border. At a distance of 150 kilometres from the boundary line, there are three mountains and two rivers all running from north to south: the Gaoligong Mountains,

with green forests dotted with mountain villages in local national style above the rivers in the valley — all this looks like a huge natural fresco.

The Nujiang River, flanked by the Gaoligong Mountains and the Biluo Snow Mountains, flows from north to south, passing Luxi County and then entering Burma, where it is called the Salween River. With abundant water, the river rushes down through the valley along a steep riverbed in western Yunnan. If you make a tour to Bijiang, Fugong and Lushui during the rainy season, you will see the raging white torrents rushing by carrying sands and stones.

A ridge of the Gaoligong Mountains forms the natural boundary between China and Burma. As the mountains are high, the

mountainous area, there is a rich variety of fauna including the Yunnan tiger, the leopard, the *Viverra zibetha*, the panda, the antelope and the rhesus monkey. They say that there are also very rare and endangered animals such as the giant panda and the golden-haired monkey.

The Zone of Volcanoes and Hot Springs

Located in the Tengchong and Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, the geological structure of the area is a basin caused by the dislocation of the earth's crust. Volcanic eruptions have occurred in the past and there still remain more than 4 volcanoes. Although during the past few centuries there have not been any eruptions,

the volcanic topography is well preserved. The volcanic cones there range in height from a dozen metres to more than 200 metres. The large craters have a diameter of over 300 metres while the small ones are only about twenty metres wide. These volcanoes come in a variety of shapes as well.

There is a volcanic cone 264 metres high, the crater of which is 150 metres in diameter. Near Yunhua Township in Tengchong County there is a specially-shaped volcanic cone, which has two craters of about the same size and depth, looking like two deep cooking pans. On the lava terraces around the volcanoes are scattered rocks in grotesque shapes, resembling animals, stupas, tombs, rafters or drums. Around the rocks there are volcanic pumice bombs in ball, cake or bottle shapes, porous, light but hard. The tourists pick them as souvenirs.

The volcanoes and the hot springs are obviously closely related. In this area of high geothermal activity there are over 90 hot springs. The county of Tengchong features a dense concentration of hot springs, of which the hottest reaches 96°C. There is a spring here called Huangguaqing Steam Spring, which spews hot steam out of a rock fissure and its white steam column rises high into the sky.

The Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture boasts a number of rivers such as the Nujiang River, Longchuan River and Taiping River. The Nujiang becomes the

Salween River in Burma, while the Longchuan flows into the Irrawaddy River. These rivers offer to Yunnan Province and Burma natural communication channels. For example, the town of Wanding on the Longchuan River and the county town of Ruili are two places of busy trade exchanges on the Sino-Burmese border. In Ruili there is a trade street where a great number of traders and businessmen gather from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Hong Kong as well as from Burma.

A View of the Tropical Rain Forests

The tropical rain forest regions are located on the southern border of Yunnan, covering, for instance, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture and the counties of Jiangcheng, Lüchun, Pingbian and Hekou as well as the southern part of the Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. Located south of the Tropic of Cancer, the area has a warm climate and abundant precipitation — favourable conditions for the growth of plants. With a rich fauna and luxuriant flora, it enjoys the reputation of the Green Treasury.

The Lancang River passes through the territory of Jinghong County in Xishuangbanna and then flows into Burma where it is known as the Mekong River, and the Yuanjiang River enters Vietnam where it is called the Song Hong (Red River) after it flows through the county of Hekou. Flanked

by huge trees, the basins of these two rivers present a view typical of the tropical rain forests, with a great variety of fauna and flora and a complicated ecosystem of layers of trees which form different chains of interdependency with vines, climbing plants and parasitical plants. In addition, there are plants with flat expansive roots or stem flowers showing typical characteristics of plant life in the tropical rain forests.

At the edges of the dense rain forests such tropical cash crops as rubber, coffee, cocoa, sisal hemp, ambary hemp, oil palm, cashew nuts, European olive, lemongrass and *Lentinus edodes* are raised. Besides, tropical fruits such as mango, coconut, jackfruit, pineapple, papaya and banana can be seen everywhere. Whatever the season one may get fresh fruit.

The Liucha Mountain in Xishuangbanna is covered with fertile soil and shrouded in mist all the year round. With an abundant rainfall and a mild climate throughout the year the mountain yields the so-called Big-leaf Qingmao Tea, which is turned into the high-quality Pu'er Tea after curing. Poured with hot water, the tea shows brownish red tint and has a sweetish flavour. The Pu'er Tea is available at the markets nearby. The tourists who come to Xishuangbanna often take this popular tea home as a souvenir or as a gift.



Translated by Gu Weizhou

Unusual Wedding Customs of Two Minority Peoples in Yunnan

Elopement Kidnapping Nuptials of the Dai

If you hear about a young girl being kidnapped when travelling in the countryside of Xishuangbanna, you need not notify the police. It is an unique elopement custom of the Dai people. Upon reaching the age of 17 or 18, Dai lads and lasses are free to choose their partners. They usually first get acquainted at a pouch-throwing game during the Water Splashing Festival where they can select the target for their pouch toss. Later on they become increasingly attached to each other through contacts in daily life. It is like this: With the help of his pals the bridegroom would get ready a bridal room and all the attendant articles. The bride, accompanied by her companions, would wait at the village entrance at an appointed time. When night fell the bridegroom and his party would suddenly dart out from roadside where they lie waiting in ambush and carry

away the bride. The wedding is then held in the appropriately arranged bridal room. Three days later, after consummating the marriage the bridegroom, accompanied by a matchmaker, would carry rice wine, brown sugar, pork and chicken to his in-laws and ask for pardon. At this time, though undoubtedly with great reluctance, the in-laws are compelled by a fait accompli to consent to the marriage.

Azhu Cohabitation Custom of the Mosuo

On the shores of beautiful Lake Lugu tucked away deep in the Yunling Mountains in Ninglang Yi Autonomous County, Yunnan, is the home of the Mosuo. Living in a society which was predominantly matriarchal, they have attracted much interest because of the degree to which this traditional social system has been preserved.

The people of this legendary "kingdom of females" are a branch of the Naxi national-

ity. However the culture and customs of these two peoples differ greatly. In marriage and family, particularly, the Mosuo people still retain many characteristics of the traditional matriarchal system. Even today they often do not get formally married. As soon as a young man and woman fall in love with each other, they can live together as *azhu*. The man spends the night at his lover's house. He contributes to the support of any children that they have. If the man and woman no longer love each other, they can separate. Then the responsibility for raising the children rests solely with the mother. Children know who are their mothers but may not recognize their fathers. Thus, it is a true matrilineal system. The relationship between lovers is established on the basis of equality and affection, although this is changing as many Mosuo are opting for monogamous marriages.



Translated by Anne Yan

Flights to and from Kunming, Yunnan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Kunming	1	17:30	20:50	3Q4184
	6	07:10	10:20	CZ393
	1 4 7	10:35	13:45	SZ4172
	2 4 6	07:40	10:50	CA1403
	1 2 3 5 6 7	11:05	14:20	3Q4122
Kunming — Beijing	1	14:10	16:40	3Q4183
	6	16:15	19:30	CZ394
	1 4 7	15:55	18:55	SZ4171
	2 4 6	11:40	14:35	CA1404
	1 2 3 5 6 7	07:40	10:15	3Q4121
Chengdu — Kunming	4	19:45	20:55	3Q4472
	6	21:00	22:10	3Q4476
	7	20:15	21:25	3Q4482
	2 5	14:40	15:50	3Q4474
	2 3 5 6	07:10	08:30	SZ4415
Kunming — Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:20	19:35	SZ4411
	4	17:45	18:55	3Q4471
	6	19:00	20:10	3Q4475
	7	18:15	19:25	3Q4481
	2 5	12:40	13:50	3Q4473
Haikou — Kunming	2 5	21:00	22:20	SZ4416
	3 6	20:10	21:30	SZ4418
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:20	21:40	SZ4412
	7	19:25	21:50	3Q4386
	1 3	19:35	21:15	3Q4974
Kunming — Haikou	2 5	11:55	13:45	SZ4376
	7	17:10	18:35	3Q4385
	1 3	17:20	18:45	3Q4973
	2 5	09:20	11:05	SZ4375
	7	08:20	14:30	CJ6463
Harbin — Kunming	1	15:20	21:30	CJ6464
Guangzhou — Kunming	4	15:20	17:05	3Q4384
	4	17:35	19:20	3Q4388
	2 5	18:10	19:55	3Q4398
	3 6	11:40	13:40	SZ4372
	1 2 5 6	07:40	09:30	CZ3409
Kunming — Guangzhou	1 3 5 7	17:20	19:10	3Q4342
	1 2 3 5 7	10:25	12:00	3Q4382
	4	07:45	09:30	3Q4383
	4	15:20	16:45	3Q4387
	2 5	07:15	08:40	3Q4397
Hong Kong — Kunming	3 6	09:10	10:55	SZ4371
	1 2 5 6	16:20	18:10	CZ3410
	1 3 5 7	15:00	16:40	3Q4341
	1 2 3 5 7	07:50	09:30	3Q4381
	1 2 5 6	13:25	15:25	CZ342
Kunming — Hong Kong	1 2 5 6	10:30	12:30	CZ341

(Valid Spring 1993)

Flights to and from Haikou, Hainan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Haikou	1 3	14:05	17:20	CA1345
	5 7	07:40	11:15	CA1355
	2 4 5 6 7	13:50	17:30	CZ3120
Haikou — Beijing	1 3	18:10	21:35	CA1346
	5 7	12:20	15:40	CA1356
	2 4 5 6 7	09:15	12:55	CZ3119
Chengdu — Haikou	3 6	08:00	09:55	3U351
	1 4 6	07:40	09:40	SZ4315
Haikou — Chengdu	3 6	10:45	12:55	3U352
	1 4 6	10:30	12:40	SZ4316
Guangzhou — Haikou	3	08:30	09:30	CZ3817
	1 3 7	07:25	08:25	CZ3919
	1 2 3 5 7	13:35	14:35	CZ3819
	2 4 5 6 7	07:15	08:15	CZ3317
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:50	19:50	CZ3315
Haikou — Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:05	08:05	CZ3917
	3	15:20	16:20	CZ3818
	1 3 7	16:10	17:10	CZ3920
	1 2 3 5 7	15:35	16:35	CZ3820
	2 4 5 6 7	18:30	19:30	CZ3318
Shenzhen — Haikou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:50	21:50	CZ3316
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:40	13:40	CZ3918
	1	08:10	09:20	CZ3985
	4	18:10	19:20	CZ3961
	2 5	14:10	15:20	CZ3955
Haikou — Shenzhen	1	10:10	11:20	CZ3986
	4	20:10	21:20	CZ3962
	2 5	19:50	21:00	CZ3956
Xiamen — Haikou	2 5	17:45	19:30	MF8303
Haikou — Xiamen	2 5	20:10	21:50	MF8304
Xi'an — Haikou	3 7	08:30	12:40	WH2385
Haikou — Xi'an	3 7	13:30	17:45	WH2386
Hong Kong — Haikou (Charter)	1	20:15	21:15	CZ3040
	2 5	18:00	18:50	CZ3040
	3 6	17:55	19:00	KA383
	1 4 7	19:10	20:10	KA381
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:00	11:50	CZ3078
Haikou — Hong Kong (Charter)	1	18:25	19:25	CZ3039
	2 5	16:10	17:10	CZ3039
	3 6	20:00	21:00	KA382
	1 4 7	21:15	22:15	KA380
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:55	09:45	CZ3077

(Valid Spring 1993)

Average Climatic Conditions in Kunming, Yunnan Province and Haikou, Hainan Province

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Kunming	Temperature (°C)	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
	Rainfall (mm)	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.2	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0
Haikou	Temperature (°C)	17.2	18.2	21.6	24.9	27.4	28.1	28.4	27.7	26.8	24.8	21.8	18.7
	Rainfall (mm)	23.6	30.4	52.0	92.8	182.6	241.6	206.7	239.5	302.8	172.4	97.6	38.0

Ferry Schedules Hong Kong—Haikou

Harbour	Ferry Name	Duration	Departure	Arrival	Tariff (Departure) (HK\$/person)	Tariff (Arrival) (HK\$/person)
China Hong Kong City Terminal	Malan/Shancha	about 22 hours	Every month on the 6th, 10th, 14th, 21st, 25th and 29th Boarding: 12:00	Every month on the 8th, 12th, 16th, 23rd, 27th and 30th Boarding: 07:00	Special A \$425 Special B \$403 1st class \$380 2nd class \$309 3rd class \$234	Special A \$361 Special B \$341 1st class \$321 2nd class \$257 3rd class \$189

Train Schedules Kunming—Guiyang

324 O.	92 Exp.	Train Station	No. Station	91 Exp.	323 O.
18:00	08:17	Kunming		12:02	08:56
20:06	11:46	Qujing		09:02	05:46
23:10	14:04	Xuanwei		07:06	03:48
02:21	16:42	Liupanshui		04:17	00:41
05:30	19:28	Anshun		00:45	21:30
07:18	21:56	Guiyang		22:56	19:43
	To Chongqing			From Chongqing	

Train Schedules Kunming—Chengdu

390 O.	94 Exp.	Train Station	No. Station	93 Exp.	389 O.
13:05	19:25	Kunming		20:59	09:45
20:55	02:29	Panzhihua		12:08	00:27
01:12	06:16	Xichang		08:41	20:32
04:36	09:40	Puxiong		05:30	17:22
10:18	14:29	Emei		00:00	10:58
10:59	—	Leshan		—	10:25
13:38	17:15	Chengdu		21:15	07:50

Exp.—Express

O.—Ordinary passenger train

Train Schedules Kunming—Guangzhou

166/163 F.T.	Train Station	No. Station	164/165 F.T.
19:41	Kunming		11:05
22:50	Qujing		08:00
01:00	Xuanwei		05:59
06:39	Anshun		23:57
09:03	Guiyang		22:04
13:10	Duyun		18:23
01:34	Liuzhou		06:33
05:00	Guilin		03:09
12:23	Hengyang		19:38
18:18	Shaoguan		13:40
19:45	Yingde		12:05
22:05	Guangzhou		09:45

F.T.—Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules Kunming—Shanghai

80 Exp.	Train Station	No. Station	79 Exp.
22:04	Kunming		06:45
01:08	Qujing		03:45
03:12	Xuanwei		01:35
08:31	Anshun		19:56
10:21	Guiyang		18:07
17:33	Mawei		10:39
00:37	Liuzhou		03:37
03:53	Guilin		00:48
10:00	Hengyang		18:39
12:11	Zhuzhou		16:33
22:34	Shangrao		06:02
02:26	Jinhua		02:13
05:57	Hangzhou		22:48
09:46	Shanghai		19:00

Guizhou's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anlong C	安龍縣	Rongjiang C	榕江縣
Anshun	安順市	Sandu Shui	三都水族
Bijie C	畢節縣	AC	自治縣
Chishui	赤水市	Sansui C	三穗縣
Congjiang C	從江縣	Shibing C	施秉縣
Dafang C	大方縣	Suiyang C	綏陽縣
Dushan C	獨山縣	Taijiang C	台江縣
Duyun	都勻市	Tongren	銅仁市
Fuquan C	福泉縣	Xishui C	習水縣
Guanling	關嶺布依	Xingren C	興仁縣
Bouyei &	族苗族	Xingyi	興義市
Miao AC	自治縣	Yinjiang Tujia	印江土家
Guiding C	貴定縣	& Miao	族苗族
Guiyang	貴陽市	AC	自治縣
Huangguoshu	黃果樹	Yuping Dong	玉屏侗族
Tourist Area	遊覽區	AC	自治縣
Huangping C	黃平縣	Zhenfeng C	貞豐縣
Jiangkou C	江口縣	Zhenning	鎮寧布依
Jinsha C	金沙縣	Bouyei &	族苗族
Kaili	凱里市	Miao AC	自治縣
Libo C	荔波縣	Zhenyuan C	鎮遠縣
Liping C	黎平縣	Zhijin C	織金縣
Lupanshui	六盤水市	Zunyi	遵義市
Meitan C	湄潭縣	Zunyi C	遵義縣
Pingba C	平壩縣	Note:	
Puding C	普定縣	C: County	
Qianxi C	黔西縣	AC: Autonomous	
Qingzhen C	清鎮縣	County	

Yunnan's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Baoshan	保山市	Lijiang Naxi	麗江納西	Simao C	思茅縣
Binchuan C	賓川縣	AC	族自治縣	Suijiang C	綏江縣
Cangyuan	滄源佤族	Lincang C	臨滄縣	Tengchong C	騰衝縣
Va AC	自治縣	Longling C	龍陵縣	Tonghai C	通海縣
Chengjiang C	澄江縣	Lufeng C	祿豐縣	Wanding	晚町市
Chuxiong	楚雄市	Luliang C	陸良縣	Weishan Yi	巍山彝族回
Daguan C	大關縣	Lushui C	瀘水縣	& Hui AC	族自治縣
Dali	大理市	Luxi C	潞西縣	Weixin C	威信縣
Dayao C	大姚縣	(Mangshi)	(芒市)	Wenshan C	文山縣
Dongchuan	東川市	Luxi C	瀘西縣	Wuding C	武定縣
Eshan Yi	峨山彝族	(Zhongshu)	(中樞)	Xichou C	西畴縣
AC	自治縣	Luoping C	羅平縣	Ximeng Va	西盟佤族
Eryuan C	洱源縣	Lüchun C	綠春縣	AC	自治縣
Fengqing C	鳳慶縣	Maguan C	馬關縣	Xinping Yi	新平彝族傣
Funing C	富寧縣	Malipo C	麻栗坡縣	& Dai AC	族自治縣
Fuyuan C	富源縣	Menghai C	勐海縣	Xuanwei C	宣威縣
Gejiu	箇舊市	Menglian Dai,	孟連傣族	Yanjin C	鹽津縣
Gengma Dai	耿馬傣族佤	Lahu & Va	拉祜族佤	Yanshan C	硯山縣
& Va AC	族自治縣	AC	族自治縣	Yao'an C	姚安縣
Guangnan C	廣南縣	Mengzi C	蒙自縣	Yiliang C	彝良縣
Hekou Yao	河口瑤族	Mile C	彌勒縣	Yimen C	易門縣
AC	自治縣	Mojiang Hani	墨江哈尼	Yongren C	永仁縣
Honghe C	紅河縣	AC	族自治縣	Yongsheng C	永勝縣
Huaning C	華寧縣	Nanhua C	南華縣	Yuanjiang	元江哈尼
Huaping C	華坪縣	Ninglang Yi	寧蒗彝族	Hani, Yi &	族彝族傣
Jianchuan C	劍川縣	AC	自治縣	Dai AC	族自治縣
Jianshui C	建水縣	Pingbian Miao	屏邊苗族	Yuanmou C	元謀縣
Jiangcheng	江城哈尼族	AC	自治縣	Yuanyang C	元陽縣
Hani & Yi AC	族自治縣	Pu'er Hani	普洱哈尼族	Yunxian C	雲縣
Jiangchuan C	江川縣	& Yi AC	族自治縣	Yuxi	玉溪市
Jinping Miao,	金平苗族	Qiubei C	邱北縣	Zhaotong	昭通市
Yao & Dai	瑤族傣族	Qujing	曲靖市	Zhenxiang C	鎮雄縣
AC	自治縣	Ruili C	瑞麗縣	Zhongdian C	中甸縣
Jinggu Dai &	景谷傣族	Shiping C	石屏縣		
Yi AC	族自治縣	Shizong C	師宗縣		
Jinghong C	景洪縣	Shuangjiang	雙江拉祜		
Kaiyuan	開遠市	Lahu, Va,	族佤族布	Note:	
Kunming	昆明市	Blang &	朗族傣族	C: County	
Lancang Lahu	瀾滄拉祜	Dai AC	自治縣	AC: Autonomous	
AC	族自治縣	Shuifu C	水富縣	County	

Annual Luoyang Peony Festival in April

The annual Luoyang Peony Festival, featuring more than one million peony plants in 350 varieties and attracting millions of visitors, will be held from April 15 to 25. Peony cultivation in Luoyang dates back to at least the Sui Dynasty (581-618). More recently, the Luoyang Peony Festival has become a window for Luoyang to the outside world, as it is a gala event involving flower shows, lantern shows and tourism as well as economic, technological, cultural and sports exchanges. Principal activities include the economic fair and commodities exhibition where businessmen initiate transactions worth several hundred million yuan each year.

Stone Forest in Hainan

A tropical stone forest covering some thirteen hectares has been found at the foot of Wuzhi Mountains in South China's Hainan Province. Located in Baoting County, the stone forest features grotesquely shaped limestone formations calling to mind swords, birds and animals. Experts said the stone forest was created thanks to the erosion of heavy tropical rains down through the centuries on Hainan.

Shooting Range at Great Wall

Beijing's Great Wall Shooting Range, located at the foot of Mutianyu Great Wall near Yanqi Lake and China National Cultural City, is about 57 kilometres from the city proper. Able to accommodate 150 persons, the range offers light infantry arms and 18 kinds of advanced domestic rifle shooting, 17 targets and an automatic target report system.

New Air Routes

As part of its efforts to provide more convenient service for international travellers to and from China, **China Eastern Airlines** has announced an expansion of its overseas air route coverage. Return flights between Seoul and Shanghai are already taking place twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. Commencing March 31, 1993, a weekly flight on Wednesdays from Shanghai to Madrid is to be launched which will serve Beijing, Bahrain and Brussels in that order. The return flight on Thursdays will stop successively at Brussels, Bahrain and Beijing. Beginning April 4, a weekly flight on Sundays from Beijing to Chicago is to commence, with stops at Shanghai and Seattle. The return flight of this route on Mondays is to stop at Seattle and Shanghai. Starting April 24, a return flight is to take place on Tuesdays and Saturdays between Shanghai and Singapore.

After one year of operation, **Shenzhen Airport** in Guangdong Province has already established 36 domestic air routes with an average of 340 flights per week, making Shenzhen one of the top six cities in China in terms of air service. Plans are afoot to launch international routes in the near future.

In order to improve communication with its next-door neighbours, modern ferries shuttling between Shenzhen and Hong Kong and Macau are to commence operation soon. There are also plans to launch a shuttle bus service between Hong Kong and Shenzhen employing twenty luxury buses.

China Southern Airlines has inaugurated a weekly Saturday flight between Beijing and Vientiane, capital of Laos. This flight, using a Boeing 737-500 aircraft, stops at Kunming, Yunnan while travelling in both directions.

Resort in Zhejiang

Local residents in Yuhuan County have begun development of a tourist resort on Kanmen Island, just off the coast of the East China Sea about 16 kilometres from Wenzhou. The resort has water sport recreational facilities and will principally cater for surfing and sailing. Added attractions include a haunted house and an underground sea palace. Four flights daily connect Kanmen and Wenzhou.

Scenic Spot Depicts Han Dynasty Life

A new scenic spot, Village of the Han Dynasty, depicting rural life during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D.220) has recently been opened in Xingshan County, Hubei Province. Covering an area of 2.7 square kilometres, it has been built according to legends surrounding Wang Zhaojun, a local girl and a Han palace maid who was married off to a nomadic chieftain so as to secure peace for the Han empire.

Karst Caves in Jiangxi

A major series of at least 37 picturesque karst caves with an area of 400,000 square metres have been discovered in Pingxiang City in Jiangxi. Some of the caves are as long as seven kilometres; some are divided into layers, and others are large enough to hold 10,000 people. In addition to a large number of stalactites and stalagmites which resemble birds, animals, pavilions and towers, some of the caves feature waterfalls and streams.

Archaeological Sites at Xinjiang

A series of construction sites in Xinjiang has yielded more than 1,000 tombs and historical artifacts during the past two years. The discoveries are significant for a better understanding of local culture and history, study of the Silk Road and the links between cultures in Xinjiang and elsewhere.

A site at Baicheng County has so far yielded about 150 ancient graves dating as far back as the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-770 B.C.) that suggest the existence of a hitherto unknown ancient culture in the area south of the Tianshan Mountains. In Subexi, Shanshan County, a dozen bodies were found preserved so well that the attached clothing was in good condition and scars from surgical operations were still visible. At a site in Baqir, Hejing County, an ancient tomb has provided data which might help to ascertain the route that the ancient Silk Road followed.

International Taijiquan Gathering to be Held

From May 5-8, the second Yongnian International Taijiquan Friendship Gathering will be held in the ancient city of Handan, Hebei Province, home of the two founders of the "Yang" and "Wu" forms of Taijiquan, Yang Luchan and Wu Yuxiang. Sponsored by the China Hebei Association for Foreign Culture Exchange, the event will be attended by masters of the six schools of Taijiquan, plus hundreds of foreign guests from 28 countries and regions.

The main activities will include a 1,000-person Taijiquan performance, hand-pushing competitions, lectures on the theory of Taijiquan by masters and prominent disciples of the six schools, a visit to the former homes and tombs of Yang Luchan and Wu Yuxiang, sightseeing in Handan and folk art performances.

In addition, there will be a commodities exhibition, a fair and conferences for business negotiations. Parties interested in attending the gathering should contact Wang Guangzhao at the Preparatory Committee of the China Hebei Yongnian International Taijiquan Friendship Gathering in Handan City.

Ancient City in Hunan

The ruins of a city built in the middle period of the Qujialing culture dating back some 4,600 years have been found in Nanyue Village of Lixian County in Hunan. One of the oldest cities yet excavated in China, it covers 76,550 square metres and contains dozens of houses, tombs and coffins.

Miyun Hunting Ground in Beijing's Suburbs

Miyun Hunting Ground, at the foot of Mount Wuling near the town of Xinchengzi, some 132 kilometres from Beijing, is now open to local and foreign hunters. Fenced-off for 12 kilometres the hunting ground offers pheasants, wild goats and deer within its 400-hectare site.

NEXT I S S U E

In our next issue we will visit two of China's most famous places, the Great Wall and the Silk Road. Following 1,000 kilometres of the ancient Great Wall in Shanxi Province, you will be taken back in time through the tumultuous history surrounding this magnificent structure.

Ten years ago, a group of Hong Kong adventurers spent a year touring China. They returned recently to the Silk Road section of their trip, reporting on the many changes that have taken place there in the past decade. We then move southwest to Guizhou Province to explore the fascinating *nuo* rituals of the Tujia people, performed to chase away ghosts and ward off bad luck.

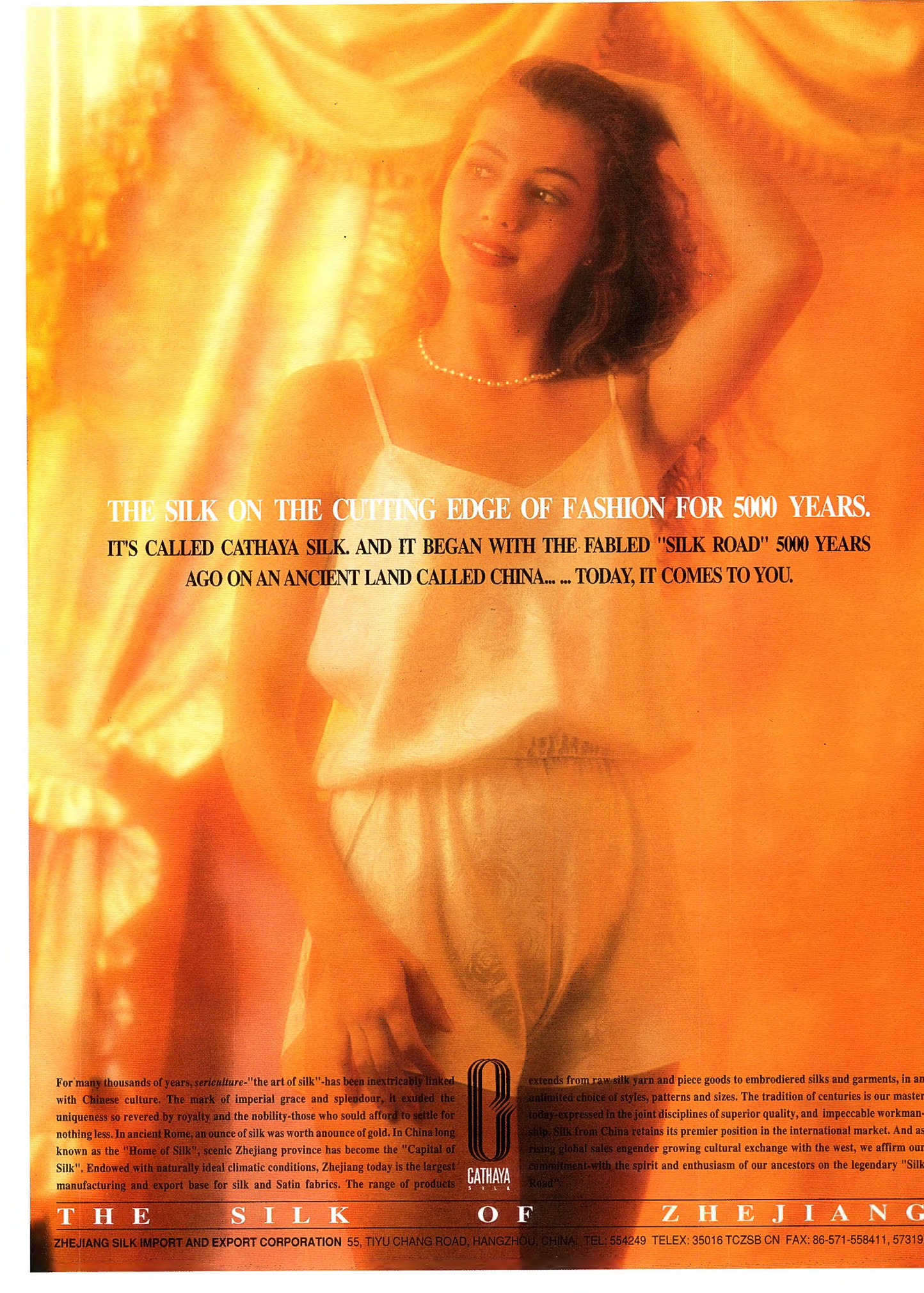
• Tracing History Along Shanxi's Great Wall



• Revisiting the Silk Road — Ten Years of Change



• The Mysterious *Nuo* Ceremonies of Guizhou's Tujia Minority

A woman with dark, wavy hair is shown from the waist up, wearing a white, sleeveless silk dress with a ruffled waist. She is looking slightly to her right with a gentle smile. Her right hand is raised behind her head. The background is a warm, golden-yellow with soft, flowing patterns that resemble silk or light rays. The overall mood is elegant and sophisticated.

THE SILK ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF FASHION FOR 5000 YEARS.
IT'S CALLED CATHAYA SILK. AND IT BEGAN WITH THE FABLED "SILK ROAD" 5000 YEARS
AGO ON AN ANCIENT LAND CALLED CHINA... ... TODAY, IT COMES TO YOU.

For many thousands of years, *sericulture*—"the art of silk"—has been inextricably linked with Chinese culture. The mark of imperial grace and splendour, it exuded the uniqueness so revered by royalty and the nobility—those who could afford to settle for nothing less. In ancient Rome, an ounce of silk was worth an ounce of gold. In China long known as the "Home of Silk", scenic Zhejiang province has become the "Capital of Silk". Endowed with naturally ideal climatic conditions, Zhejiang today is the largest manufacturing and export base for silk and Satin fabrics. The range of products



extends from raw silk yarn and piece goods to embroidered silks and garments, in an unlimited choice of styles, patterns and sizes. The tradition of centuries is our master today—expressed in the joint disciplines of superior quality, and impeccable workmanship. Silk from China retains its premier position in the international market. And as rising global sales engender growing cultural exchange with the west, we affirm our commitment with the spirit and enthusiasm of our ancestors on the legendary "Silk Road".

THE SILK OF ZHEJIANG

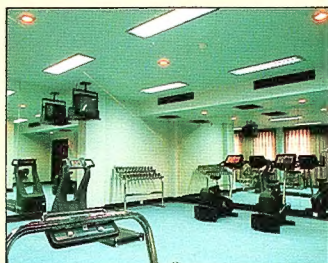
ZHEJIANG SILK IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION 55, TIYU CHANG ROAD, HANGZHOU, CHINA. TEL: 554249 TELEX: 35016 TCZSB CN FAX: 86-571-558411, 573191

PEACE HOTEL

★★★★



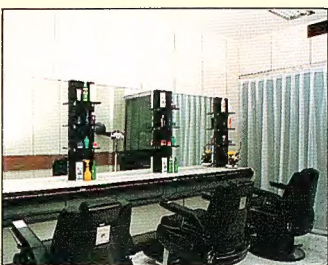
Peace Hall



Gymnasium



Peace Grill



Barber Shop



The Mezzanine Cafe



Sauna Bath



Suite in Chinese style



The Peace Hotel Shanghai, a 4-star hotel, is located on the Bund by the Huangpu River at Nanjing Road East, the busiest district in Shanghai. It is 3.5km away from the railway station and 18km from the Hongqiao airport.

The hotel is composed of the south and north building. The north building in Chicago architectural style built in 1929 was the former Cathay Hotel, known as the "No. 1 Building in the Far East". The south building in the Renaissance architectural style built in 1906 used to be called the Palace Hotel. They were renamed the Peace Hotel in 1956. Now the hotel is subordinate to the Jinjiang (Group) Holding Company.

Mr. Wang Ji Ming, General Manager of the Peace Hotel, greets to the friends at home and abroad: "Peace Hotel has a long history, its feature of continental architectural style is widely welcomed by guests, and our hotel has been graded as the most famous hotel in the world. As the famous saying: Seeing is the truth. Whether eating in Peace Hotel better or staying at Peace Hotel better, you will easily know so long as you come. I warmly welcome you to come and stay at our hotel."

The hotel has a total of 420 rooms (suites), among which 9 deluxe suites still retain their original taste. These 9 suites are in Chinese, Italian, German, Indian, British, French, Japanese, Spanish and American style. They can only be found here in this hotel.

The hotel is complete in such facilities as Jazz Bar, business center, foreign language bookstore, barber shop, karaoke room, health center (including gymnasium, billiard room, sauna bath, chess and cards room), etc. Especially the Old Jazz Band at the coffee shop is well-known far and near, they are good at playing those popular jazz music in 1930's and 1940's. Many heads and ministers of the State have come to see the performances out of admiration. The band once gave tour performances in the United States, Japan, Hong Kong and is highly appreciated by the guests at home and abroad.

The hotel owns 10 Chinese and Western restaurants with over 1300 seats. They are the Peace Hall, Dragon-Phoenix Hall, Farthest-Heaven Hall, Palace Hall, Peace Grill, etc. The Chinese restaurants mainly serve famous Shanghai, Cantonese and Sichuan dishes, especially Shanghai cuisine. All dishes are prepared by skilful master chefs.

Shanghai Peace Hotel

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SHANGHAI JIN JIANG (GROUP) HOLDING CO.



深圳

中國民俗文化村

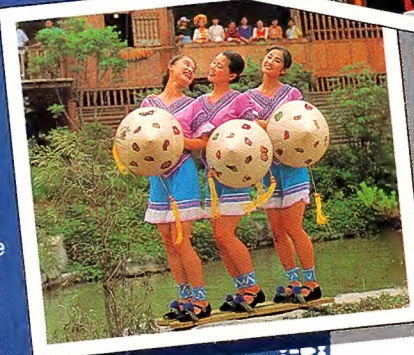
China Folk Culture Villages

SHENZHEN

With an area of 240,000 square metres, China Folk Culture Villages is adjacent to "Splendid China" Scenic Spot. Built in the Villages are 24 villages of China's minority nationalities who are living in Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Tibet, Hunan, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, etc. as well as more than 20 well-known scenic spots, which are all built on the scale of 1:1. Here you can enjoy the performance of folk song and dance, and folk acrobatics presented by a few hundred minority artists. You will also get some ideas of folk arts, and customs and lives of China's various minority nationalities.

- China Folk Culture Villages consisting of the world's largest number of minority nationalities
- The world's largest man-made stone forest, banyan, waterfall, cave and the largest laser folk music fountain in the world
- Appreciating all kinds of folk customs and local conditions
- Enjoying primitive, graceful song and dance

- Having a taste of unique flavour of local snacks and delicacies
- A grand "Folk Arts Parade" held each day
- Folk festive celebrations held each month



CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONG KONG) LIMITED

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